FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-88-230
Wednesday
30 November 1988

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-88-230 *30 November 1988*

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LD3011135688 [Editorial Report]

Iran

Foreign Affairs—If any future U.S. government seeks to resume ties with Iran on the basis of mutual respect and noninterference in internal affairs, the Iranian authorities will "study the issue," Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Larijani stated in remarks reported by IRNA.

On relations with Saudi Arabia, Larijani viewed the latter's desire to improve relations as "positive" and revealed that the two countries held contacts recently.

Nevertheless, Majles Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani stressed at a press conference reported by Tehran radio that Saudi Arabia must "make up" for its behavior toward Iranian pilgrims during the 1987 hajj.

Rafsanjani also commented on the issue of hostages in Lebanon, stressing that if Iran is to help release U.S. and British hostages, the United States and Great Britain must take "serious" steps to secure the release of Iranian hostages.

On his talks with visiting FRG Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, Rafsanjani disclosed that the two sides discussed the possibility of financial credit from the FRG, IRNA noted. This is the "clearest statement yet" on Iran's possible turn to foreign markets to finance post-war projects, the agency said.

A related DPA report revealed that Rafsanjani is seeking to rebuild the unfinished nuclear power station at Bushehr. However, the West Germans indicated that Bushehr can only be reconstructed after an Iran-Iraq peace treaty is signed, DPA added.

In another development, Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi received Iranian Heavy Industries Minister Behzad Nabavi in Tripoli, according to Voice of Greater Arab Homeland radio.

Sami Commemoration—Thousands of people attended a mourning ceremony for former Health Minister Dr Kazem Sami and some of the participants staged a demonstration afterward shouting slogans against terrorism and demanding justice over Sami's murder, IRNA reported. Those attending the ceremony included several ministers and Majles deputies, as well as Freedom Movement leader Mehdi Bazargan. A Tehran police official cited by the agency revealed that Sami's murderer has been identified but is still at large.

Afghanistan

The Armed Forces "eliminated over 900 persons belonging to the extremist groups" during a 27 November operation near Qandahar, BAKHTAR announced. Afghan Government troops recaptured several areas from the rebels in the operation, the agency indicated. The same report also noted that a bomb explosion in Kabul University injured several students and caused damage.

Differences within the seven-party resistance alliance have stalled the planned direct talks between rebel leaders and Soviet officials in Saudi Arabia, according to "informed sources" in Islamabad cited by AFP. The talks were scheduled to begin in Jeddah 1 December, but resistance leaders became divided on technicalities and three factions expressed reservations about attending.

On the results of the recent talks between Soviet and mujahidin representatives in Pakistan, a resistance communique cited by AFP stated that the mujahidin have agreed to release 4 Soviet POW's in exchange for 100 prisoners taken by Soviet forces inside Afghanistan.

Pakistan

Pakistan People's Party (PPP) leader Benazir Bhutto's chances of forming a government were strengthened by reports that the Muhajir Qaumi Movement (MQM) and the Baluchistan National Alliance have decided to support the PPP, Delhi radio noted. However, AFP stated earlier that talks between the PPP and MQM had "bogged down," with the MQM accusing the PPP of raising "unnecessary objections" to MQM demands.

Meanwhile, eight leading Pakistani religious scholars stated they will not accept Bhutto's appointment as prime minister as the idea of a female ruler is "repugnant" to Islam, according to AFP.

Israel

Coalition Prospects—Agudat Yisra'el leaders informed the Alignment 30 November that they support Shim'on Peres as their candidate for prime minister, IDF radio reported. Alignment sources cited by the radio said this creates a new situation in which it may be inadvisable for the Labor Party Bureau to call for renewed negotiations with the Likud.

Nevertheless, Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin told Jerusalem radio earlier that the Alignment stands no chance of forming a government without the Likud and should not pursue attempts to form a narrow-based government with the ultraorthodox parties.

For the Likud, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir stressed that forming a broad-based government is essential, as a narrow-based government would have to devote most of its time to survival and would have difficulty functioning, IDF radio reported.

Tabah—An Israeli-Egyptian agreement on Tabah stipulates that the two sides will implement the arbitration decision by erecting new border markers and that they will attempt to reach agreement on all outstanding differences within 60 days, Jerusalem radio noted. The agreement was signed in Rome in the presence of U.S. officials.

Territories—Five Arabs were wounded by gunfire during clashes with Israeli soldiers, Jerusalem radio noted. The radio's Arabic service reported that residents of the territories observed a general strike in response to calls from Hamas and the PFLP, despite a decision by the PLO mainstream not to declare a strike on the anniversary of UN Resolution 181, which the PNC now endorses.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Husayn Tour—Jordan's King Husayn visited the YAR and held talks with President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih on the Palestine question and bilateral relations, Sanaa radio reported. Husayn subsequently flew to Cairo where he was received by Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, MENA noted.

Libyan Diplomacy—Libyan Army commander Colonel Abu Bakr Yunis Bakr arrived in Khartoum and began talks with Sudanese Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, JANA reported. The two sides stressed the need for "integration" and discussed aspects of "brotherly cooperation."

In another development, the Qatari paper AL-RAYAH claimed that Col al-Qadhdhafi telephoned President Mubarak last week to discuss bilateral relations, according to WAKH.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat on Dispatch of 'Armed Groups' to Europe

JN3011101088 Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic 27 Nov 88 pp 1, 20

[By Najih Khalil and Shakir al-Jawhari]

[Excerpt] PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has confirmed AL-SIYASAH reports that armed groups have gone to several Western capitals to carry out military acts against civilian European and Jewish targets during his participation in the UN General Assembly meetings.

The Palestinian leader told AL-SIYASAH that an Arab state, which has bad relations with the PLO and the Palestinian people, has sent groups to Europe to carry out acts of sabotage against civilian European targets and a Jewish synagogue at a time when he was supposed to be delivering a speech before the UN General Assembly.

Before asking the PLO chairman about this issue, AL-SIYASAH had known that the PFLP-GC had sent several groups to several European capitals to carry out acts that would provoke world and European public opinion against the Palestinian state and obstruct its acceptance as a UN member state. Earlier, this front had opposed the recent PNC resolutions in Algiers.

The FRG authorities had also arrested a group belonging to this front before the convocation of the PNC session. This front planned to carry out operations in foreign countries during the PNC session.

AL-SIYASAH Palestinian sources added they have information that Israeli intelligence also has plans to carry out terrorist acts against Jewish targets in Europe for the same reason. [passage omitted]

PLO's Salah Khalaf on 'Arafat Visa Refusal

PM3011122588 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 29 Nov 88 p 4

[Zaki Shihab report: "Abu Iyad Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: U.S. Disregard of Palestinian Initiative Will Compel Us To Reconsider Our Positions"]

[Text] London—Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf (Abu Iyad) has stated that the U.S. authorities' decision not to grant PLO Executive Chairman Yasir 'Arafat a U.S. entry visa came as a surprise because anyone invited by the United Nations and its secretary general to speak on behalf of his country or the side he represents is entitled to an entry visa. In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT from Kuwait, Khalaf said that, as an observer, the PLO has a right to attend General Assembly meetings and choose whomever it likes to represent it.

He described the U.S. decision as a slight to Palestinian, Arab, and world public opinion. The decision, he said, reflects the Zionist lobby's considerable influence on the U.S. Administration in general and the State Department in particular.

The Palestinian official accused U.S. officials of not having read the PNC declarations and documents, which have been supported by most of the international community. What they have done, he said, is clear evidence that the United States still adopts the same, known attitude to Arab issues.

If the United States continues to ignore the Palestinian peace initiative, Abu Iyad said, we in the Palestinian leadership will be forced to reconsider all our positions, especially the positions announced at the latest PNC session. He said that the Arab world, the nonaligned bloc, and the OAU must take a unified stand to prevent U.S. hegemony over the United Nations and control of its resolutions and directions.

He added that our main concern must be to move public opinion in Western and friendly states to act urgently to transfer the debate on the Palestinian question from New York to Geneva to enable Yasir 'Arafat to address the international community and world public opinion.

Fatah's second in command described Arab reaction as positive, adding it should be followed by practical steps in response to the U.S. stand.

He said that 'Arafat's talks with King Husayn in Amman were special and successful, marking the beginning of a Jordanian-Palestinian move to crystallize a joint Arab course of action to explain the PNC resolutions and documents, particularly the independence document and the basis on which the Palestinian state declaration was made. Abu Iyad revealed that a major part of the talks focused on the refusal to grant 'Arafat an entry visa to go to New York and the possible repercussions of that step and that it had been agreed to initiate an Arab campaign to move the session from New York to Geneva.

'Disagreement' Noted Among Palestinian Factions

JN2911185388 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 29 Nov 88

[Text] Thirteen Palestinians were shot and wounded by the Israeli forces in the occupied territories today under a general strike called for by the Islamic Resistance Movement—Hamas—and the PFLP in a statement numbered 29 and headlined the call of return.

Hamas called for a general strike on the 41st anniversary marking the issuance of UN Resolution No 181, which called for dividing Palestine into Jewish and Arab states. At the beginning of its statement, the Palestinian fundamentalist movement wondered about the reason for

accepting the partition resolution today while it was rejected by the Palestinian people and the Islamic and Arab governments and nations upon its issuance.

The statement attributed to the PFLP called for a general strike today on the anniversary of the day of world solidarity with the Palestinian people. It is noted that the Unified Leadership of the Uprising has not called for a strike on this occasion, but only urged an escalation of confrontation.

Circles close to the Unified Leadership said an agreement was reached among Fatah, the DFLP, and the Palestinian Communist Party to issue Statement No 29 under the headline of the call of the wedding of the independent Palestinian state, an indication that the PNC's emphasis on convening an international conference on the basis of Resolutions 242 and 338, coupled with the right to self-determination, is not a gratuitous concession as some may think, but a realistic, revolutionary, and responsible expression.

The diversity of statements and stands reflects an explicit political disagreement between the fundamentalists and the Unified Leadership and another disagreement among the parties to the Unified Leadership itself.

Hamas Calls for Strikes in Statement No 32

JN2911194488 Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 26 Nov 88 p 21

["Text" of statement issued by the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, in Palestine—date not given]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Our patient people: Within days a black anniversary in the history of the Palestine question will be marked. It is the anniversary of the partition of Palestine which dates back to 7 July 1927, when the Bell Committee proposed the establishment of a Jewish state and an Arab state on Palestine's land. During the London conference, which was held from 10 September 1946 to 2 October 1946, Britain proposed to the Arabs that Palestine be partitioned into two states, an Arab state and a Jewish state, under the name "the Union Plan."

On Saturday morning, 29 November 1947, the UN General Assembly overwhelmingly voted in favor of the partition of Palestine. As a result, Resolution No 181 was issued. No Islamic or Arab country voted in its favor, while the countries of blasphemy, including the United States and the Soviet Union, exerted every effort and used pressure to pass the resolution. This is what happened. At the time, the Palestinian people and the Arab governments and peoples viewed the partition resolution as a treasonous resolution which should be rejected.

In 1948 the Arab armies moved to prevent the Palestinian people from defending their rights. Plotting with the countries of blasphemy, they handed over the Palestinian coast so that a state would be established. Immediately, the United States recognized that state and the the Soviet Union followed suit.

The regimes turned the homeless Palestinian people into refugees taking refuge with some countries, which exploited them in accumulating money. Palestinians in Lebanon suffered more than the others because of large-scale killings and torture and these countries persuaded their peoples that the Palestine question is an Arab cause. On this basis, the 1967 scenario took place for relinquishing the rest of Palestine. When Al-Sadat dared to negotiate with Israel, the Arab peoples and governments showed anger and branded him with treason and agentry. Then he won what he deserved at the hand of heroic struggler Khalid al-Islambuli, a member of the Islamic Movement.

Then the situation quickly changed and all of the Arab countries began to call for peace and negotiations with Israel and to urge the Palestinians to relinquish their rights and bury their struggle, liberation, and weapons in the martyrs' graves. The Arabs forgot that Israel destroyed the nuclear reactor in Baghdad, invaded Tunis and destroyed the Palestinian headquarters there, and assassinated the deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution. Israel is still threatening the nation's entity. Today, the Arabs are at the bottom of concessions and the Jews are at the top of arrogance.

Our steadfast people: As it hails you for your steadfastness and your continuous resistance, your movement Hamas urges you to adhere to the following:

1. To be completely aware of the repeated Jewish attempts to split the unified Palestinian ranks at this dangerous state and to fabricate problems on all levels. Let us foil these attempts and let us pool our ranks in the face of the joint enemy.

2. To realize the dimensions of the poisonous propaganda being launched against Hamas by the Israeli mass media, including false news such as mournings, strikes, and the publishing of false statements full of curses and abusive words like the one which was published on 17 December 1988. [date as published].

3. To consider Tuesday, 29 November 1988, the anniversary of the partition of Palestine in 1947, a day of comprehensive strike.

4. To consider Thursday, 8 December 1988, the 1st anniversary of the uprising, a day of comprehensive strike.

5. To consider Friday, 9 December 1988, the beginning of the uprising's 2d year, a day of comprehensive strike.

6. To continue to resist the occupation and harm it.

7. Not to listen to any people or words that will weaken your determination and stop the uprising. Resistance will continue on the path of liberation of all Palestine, regardless of the sacrifices, the duration, the usurper's brutality and its iron fist, and defeatism and concessions.

[Signed] The Islamic Resistance Movement—Hamas—in Palestine

Algeria

Mehri Gives News Conference on Party Congress

LD2811223888 Algiers APS in English 1005 GMT 28 Nov 88

[Text] Algiers, 28/11/88 (APS)—The events of October, a revision of the information system, the independence of justice, the declaration of fortunes at all level of responsibilities and the institution of a constitutional council were the main points of President Chadli Bendjedid, Abdelhamid Mehri, chairman of the bureau of the 6th FLN Party Congress said Sunday in a press conference.

Speaking on October events, Mehri said the congress deplored the losses in human lives and material losses, pointing out that it supported measures taken by the head of state for the trial of persons responsible for the excesses that happened during these events. During this first day, the chairman of the bureau remarked that the head of state also made proposals concerning a democratization of the political life including a re-shaping of laws on information. The latter must be reinforced in order to enable it to fully play its role through a freedom of expression which reflects the aspirations of the people, as stipulated in the Constitution.

Concerning the independence of justice, Mehri called for a protection of judges and magistrates which will enable them to accomplish their mission in the defence of their citizen with no pressure. Moreover, he dealt with the creation of a constitutional council which will watch the strict implementation of Constitution and laws which of result from it.

Concerning the declaration of fortunes, the chairman of the bureau said the head of state affairmed that it will concern all officials at any level—from the president of the Republic to the mere civil servant. This declaration must be done before each mandate and after its expiration, he pointed out. Speaking on the national service, the president of the Republic underlined the necessity to adapt it according to concerns of the youth. Previously, Mehri declared that the documents proposed to congressmen concerned the report of the secretary general and draft resolutions of the main commissions.

Mehri also said that President Chadli Bendjedid made a tableau without complacency of the economic situation and proposed solutions in relation with this situation which privileges self-reliance. The political and economic reforms proposed by the secretary general of the FLN Party were in embryo since more than a year, Mehri added. The head of state spoke on these reforms on many occasions before the events of October Mehri said giving the example of the speech made in December 1987.

Mediation Efforts Between PLO, Syria Noted

JN2911201688 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 27 Nov 88 p 1

[Text] Al-ITTIHAD has learned that the efforts currently being exerted by Algeria to improve Syrian-PLO relations have made big strides and are promising positive results. Informed diplomatic sources in Tunis told AL-ITTIHAD that Algeria is seeking to arrange meetings between Syrian and Palestinian officials in Algiers soon, to be followed by a visit to Syria by a delegation from the PLO leadership.

The sources said that the message of Algerian Foreign Minister Boualem Bessaieh to his Syrian counterpart Faruq al-Shar' last week included this Algerian proposal as well as the most important results of the Algerian-Palestinian talks in this respect and Algeria's views and proposals to improve relations between the two sides.

The sources stressed that the Algerian Ambassador in Damascus Djedri Moubarek, who delivered the message, returned to Algiers Wednesday to apprise the Algerian leadership of the outcome of his contacts with the Syrian officials. The sources expected the Algerian foreign minister to visit Damascus to pursue these efforts.

Egypt

Jordan's King Husayn Arrives in Cairo 30 Nov

NC3011112488 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1122 GMT 30 Nov 88

[Text] Cairo, 30 Nov (MENA)—King Husayn of Jordan arrived in Cairo from Sanaa at noon today to begin a 2-day visit to Egypt. President Husni Mubarak was at the head of the reception committee at the airport.

Mubarak Proposes Action To Revive Peace Process

NC2911202388 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 29 Nov 88

[Text] In his statement today to the UN Palestinian Rights Committee meeting on the occasion of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, President Husni Mubarak proposed four major factors to revive and activate the peace process in the Middle East. The factors proposed by President Mubarak focus on a strong international backing for the Palestinian people's movement toward peace; the translation of this backing into an active international action to revive the peace process; the start of consultations among all the concerned parties, including the Security Council's permanent members; and the need to respect Security Council resolutions on the situation in the occupied Arab territories and on the Palestinian people's rights.

Further on Peace Proposals

NC2911214288 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 29 Nov 88

[Text] In his statement today to the UN Palestinian Rights Committee meeting on the occsion of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, President Husni Mubarak proposed four major factors to revive and activate the peace process in the Middle East. President Mubarak's statement, delivered on his behalf by Dr 'Abd al-Halim Badawi, Egypt's permanent delegate to the United Nations, emphasized the importance of making various efforts to provide these facators. The first factor calls for strong international backing for the Palestinian people's movement toward peace, which has been reflected by the PNC's recent courageous resolutions.

The second factor consists of translating this backing into an active international action to revive the peace process within the framework of international legitiamcy and embarking on the required efforts until all parties realize that peace cannot be attained through oppression and hegemony.

The third factor proposed by President Mubarak to revive and activate the peace process in the region deals with beginning consultations among all the concerned parties, including the UN Security Council's permanent members, prior to convening an interantional peace conference.

The fourth factor is the need to respect UN Security council Resolutions 605, 607, and 608 on the current situation in the occupied territories and to safeguard the rights of the Palestinian people who live under occupation.

Mubarak on Palestinian State, Ties With Algeria

NC2611214888 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 26 Nov 88

[Text] Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif said at the conclusion of President Muhammad Husni Mubarak's meeting with the NDP's Political Club this evening that the president had asserted in this meeting that Egypt is doing its utmost to support the Palestinian cause. The president noted that Egypt backs the PNC resolutions, including the establishment of the Palestinian state, and recognizes the new state. He remarked that Egypt has its own decision-making power and will and does not yield to any pressure from here or there. On future steps to achieve a peaceful solution to the Palestinian issue, the president affirmed that Egypt seeks to convene an international conference, a process requiring great effort.

Commenting on coordination with fraternal Jordan, the president pointed out that there is continuous coordination with the Jordanian monarch, who will be visiting Egypt soon. He noted the importance of coordination at the Arab level now that a new U.S. Administration will take office in January and a new Israeli Government is being formed. All this, he added, requires defining and coordinating Arab stands for the service of the Palestinian cause.

Commenting on the restoration of diplomatic relations with Algeria, the president said Algeria is a fraternal Arab country. He also said that Egypt is exerting great efforts to acheive reconciliation in fraternal Sudan and expressed the hope that positive steps will be taken to end the problem of the south. The information minister added that the president explained the situation concerning the capital pooling companies and the government's efforts to preserve the rights of the depositors, as well as the efforts being exerted by the prosecution and judiciary to preserve their rights.

Agreement With Israel on Tabah Implementation

NC2911203488 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1945 GMT 29 Nov 88

[Text] Cairo, 29 Nov (MENA)—A Foreign Ministry spokesman has announced that an agreement was signed between the Egyptian and Israeli Governments at the Multinational Force and Observers Headquarters in Rome today dealing with the implementation of the Arbitration Tribunal's ruling on Tabah. A U.S. Government representative attended the signing ceremony.

Ambassador Nabil al-'Arabi, Egypt's permanent delegate to the European UN Headquarters in Geneva, signed the agreement for Egypt and Sybil, the legal adviser at the Israeli Foreign Ministry, signed for Israel. The agreement affirms the two parties' commitment to implement the ruling as expeditiously as possible and with good will, and includes both parties' acceptance of implementing the Arbitration Tribunal's decision, which requires that both of them withdraw to positions behind the internationally recognized boundaries.

The agreement also provides for the liaison apparatus between the two countries to meet within 2 weeks of the signing of the agreement and for the erection of border markers to begin at the locations specified by the tribunal's ruling so that they will be erected within [word indistinct] days. The agreement also includes a provision calling for representatives of the two countries to meet as soon as possible within 60 days from the date of the signature of this agreement, with the aim of resolving the remaining unresolved points.

Ties With Syria 'Might Be Resumed Soon'

NC3011121188 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1115 GMT 30 Nov 88

[Excerpt] Citing Arab diplomatic sources in Cairo, the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-WATAN affirmed today that a high-ranking Egyptian official visited Damascus recently within the framework of the ongoing Egyptian-Syrian contacts designed to normalize diplomatic relations

between the two countries. The paper said that these relations, which were severed after the Camp David accords were signed in 1979, might be resumed soon. [passage omitted]

'Abd al-Majid Makes Solidarity Day Address

NC2911204788 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 29 Nov 88

[Text] Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has declared that, under the leadership of President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, Egypt, which has always been and still is in the forefront of supporting the Palestinian people's struggle and cause in collaboration with its Arab sisters, is determined to exert all efforts to back and support the Palestinian people in their just struggle to attain all their national legitimate rights, foremost being the right to self-determination and the establishment of their state on their own land, so that peace and stability can prevail in the Middle East.

In an address marking the day of solidarity with the Palestinian people, which was read out on his behalf by Assistant Foreign Minister Ambassador Sami Haybah during a ceremony organized by the Egyptian UN Society, Dr 'Abd al-Majid termed the recognition of the Palestinian state by several countries as a true and real expression of acceptance and support for the Palestinian people's struggle, within the lines of international legality, to enjoy their national legitimate rights.

He pointed out that what has been achieved in this respect so far cannot be considered enough, since serious future efforts need to be exerted to take advantage of this foundation. He noted the need to underline the positive points formulated by the Algiers decisions within the framework of UN Security Council Resolutions Nos 242 and 338. He said it is important to build on these points through a calm and well-studied plan of action that takes all the regional and international developments pertinent to the dispute into account, so that these decisions can ultiamtely be translated into practical realities that serve the Palestinian people and their cause.

Mahmud 'Abbas, 'Abd al-Majid Hold Talks

NC3011120888 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1035 GMT 30 Nov 88

[Text] Cairo, 30 Nov (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, held a meeting this morning with Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu Mazin, member of the PLO Executive Committee, and Zuhdi al-Qidrah, Fatah representative in Cairo. The meeting was also attended by Ambassador Husayn Hassunah, director of Dr 'Abd al-Majid's office.

Following the meeting, Mahmud 'Abbas stated that they discussed the issue of the hour; namely, Yasir 'Arafat's address to the UN General Assembly and the possibility of transfering the venue of the UN session to Geneva. He said that he explained to Dr 'Abd al-Majid the excellent and positive results of recent talks between Yasir 'Arafat and the Jordanian monarch. Other issues pertaining to the Palestinian issue and the scheduled UN discussions were also discussed during the meeting, he said.

'Abbas said the current stage must be one of Arab solidarity. Relentless efforts to convene an Arab summit on various Arab issues and developments, particularly in the Palestinian arena, along with the Lebanese question and other questions, must materialize into a strong Arab solidarity capable of handling the situation in the coming stages. He maintained that world support is evidence that the Palestinian issue is a just one. He said that resolutions adopted in Algiers recently have helped the world to understand the Palestinian situation better. Therefore, he added, the world showed sympatny with the Palestinian people and understood and supported their damlands.

Touching on the U.S. stand, Abu Mazin said the Americans oppose granting Yasir 'Arafat an entry visa, while they have no objection to transferring the UN session to Geneva. Commenting on an expected meeting in Cairo among President Mubarak, Yasir 'Arafat, and King Husayn, Abu Mazin said such a meeting is not possible now. He added that future steps have been agreed upon previously among the various parties concerned.

In conclusion, Abu Mazin asserted that the Palestinians' stand is based on justice. Vituperation is therefore unnecessary. He noted that the Palestinians have decided to handle matters with the United States quietly, because the Palestinians are entitled to their own rights and are standing on solid ground.

Abu Mazin said: When Shultz issued a decision denying 'Arafat an entry visa to the United States, the entire world wondered what the Palestinian stand would be and about the justifications for this decision. The world then learned the truth of the matter, he added, and thus the decision came to be good propaganda for the cause. We can here apply the saying "a horrible mistake may be turned to your advantage."

People's Assembly Welcomes PNC Resolutions

NC2711151488 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 27 Nov 88

[Text] The People's Assembly resumed its meetings under the chairmanship of Speaker Dr Rif'at al-Mahjub this morning. During today's session, the Assembly ratified a statement which the General Committee of the People's Assembly issued yesterday, and which noted that, in its first session following the PNC meeting in Algiers, the People's Assembly welcomes the PNC Algiers resolutions. The statement describes these resolutions as being marked by reality and moderation, foremost being the resolution establishing a Palestinian state.

The People's Assembly asserts the government's support and backing for, and recognition of, the Palestinian state, hoping that this step will result in a quick end to the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian state's territories. The statement goes on to say that, on this occasion, the People's Assembly salutes those who are carrying out the nationalist uprising in the occupied territories, which will soon enter the 2d year of its victorious struggle. Following the lead of the government, the People's Assembly denounces the occupation authorities' acts of suppression and violence against the Palestinian uprising.

In its statement, the People's Assembly calls on international parliaments to support the establishment of the Palestinian state and a just and comprehensive settlement of the region's conflict through a UN-sponsored international conference with the participation of all the parties concerned, including the PLO. The People's Assembly hails the conscious moves and sincere efforts exerted by the political leadership under President Muhammad Husni Mubarak to establish the Palestinian people's just and legitimate rights and calls for the consolidation of all the Arab efforts in order to accomplish this noble pan-Arab objective.

AL-AKHBAR Cited on U.S. Visa Decision

NC2711222388 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2156 GMT 27 Nov 88

[Text] Cairo, 27 Nov (MENA)—AL-AKHBAR emphasizes that the U.S. decision to deny a visa to PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat to travel to New York to deliver a speech at the UN General Assembly dashes the Washington government's credibility and raises doubts about its alleged quest for the establishment of peace in the Middle East.

In its commentary appearing in its Monday edition, the paper characterizes the U.S. decision as "behavior that does not befit a major power that is sometimes described as the strongest and richest state in the world." The paper adds that the decision confirms the United States' 100-percent partiality to Israel, which has undoubtedly exerted desperate efforts and applied intensive pressure on the U.S. Government to refuse to permit the only man the Palestinians recognize as their representative and spokesman to spend a few hours at the international organization, which alone has the right to decide who should speak from its rostrum.

AL-AKHBAR concludes its commentary by calling on the Arab, Islamic, and nonaligned states to present a strongly worded protest to U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, who is said to be the author of this decision. It appears, the paper says sarcastically, that Shultz could find nothing better than this action to serve as a memorial before he leaves his post in 1 month and a few days.

Paper Views UN General Assembly Discussions

JN2711202888 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 25 Nov 88 p 6

[Editorial: "The Egyptian Initiative Is Continuing"]

[Text] The UN General Assembly will witness important discussions on the Palestine question next week in light of the new developments and the international reaction to the PNC resolutions, especially the declaration of the Palestinian state. If it becomes certain that PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat will address the international organization, he will place anew the outcome of the uprising session of the PNC and the international support sought by the PLO on the road to a just and comprehensive peace. He will also seek membership of the state in the United Nations.

In view of the importance of these discussions, it was decided that Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, will lead the Egyptian delegation to the discussions. He will deliver an important political speech determining the Arab viewpoint on the Palestinian decisions and how they open the way for the convening of the international peace conference.

Naturally, there will be an opportunity for important meetings with the representatives of the five Security Council permanent member states and the foreign ministers of world countries present at the United Nations for this occassion. This will complement the constant Egyptian diplomatic moves and use the peace momentum in favor of the Palestine question. These moves, as seen by observers, reflect the importance of the Egyptian role at this sensitive stage and stress that the Egyptian initiative to achieve peace is continuing.

The Egyptian moves to support the legitimate Palestinian demands is complemented by Arab coordination. The Palestinian resolutions were based on the resolutions of the Arab summits in Fes and Algiers. The Arab countries have adopted these resolutions since they were declared. They expressed satisfaction with the essence of these resolutions and the way they were formulated. With this clear and integral mentality, many observers expect the UN General Assembly's discussions to turn into a demonstration of world support for the Palestinian uprising and the independent state, especially since the UN secretary general will present during the discussion his first report on the developments in the occupied territories. This report will be an international testimony that urges the international community to use its influence and efforts to stop the violence and hold the peace conference. We, therefore, have the right to expect a new victory for the Egyptian and Arab diplomacy following these discussions.

Dailies Assail U.S. Decision on 'Arafat Visa

NC2911102588 Cairo MENA in Arabic
0640 GMT 29 Nov 88

[Text] Cairo, 29 Nov (MENA)—AL-AHRAM newspaper strongly criticizes the United States for its refusal to grant a visa to PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat to enter its territory and deliver a speech before the UN General Assembly. In its editorial today, AL-AHRAM states that the U.S. stand is astonishing. The administration still in power in Washington has made efforts for peace, and its policies will be continued by the Republican administration that succeeds it. And yet, while still in the era of U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, who has promoted initiatives for peace, reconciliation, and rapprochement in the Middle East, this administration opted to fire the first shot against the PLO and the PNC resolutions, which stressed the renunciation of terrorism. The United States has, AL-AHRAM maintains, set up a barricade, denying a visa to 'Arafat despite the fact that he accepted its two basic conditions of publicly recognizing Security Council Resolutions Nos 242 and 338.

AL-AHRAM points out that the pretext used is a cause of more amazement. The UN Headquarters agreement concluded between the United States and the United Nations in 1947 binds Washington to grant the right of passage, entry, and residence to persons invited by the United Nations, but the Congress stipulated that the U.S. Government retain the power to forbid entry to certain persons to protect its national security. AL-AHRAM expresses its surprise at the position of the United States, which still considers Yasir 'Arafat, despite his favorable response to all U.S. conditions and his new peaceful role, to pose "a danger" to U.S. national security.

In an article on the U.S. decision, AL-AKHBAR calls on the Arab countries to step up their diplomatic efforts and moves on the largest scale possible, so as to exploit the angry international reaction to the U.S. refusal to permit PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat to deliver his speech to the UN General Assembly. In an article today, AL-AKHBAR says that international reaction must motivate the Arab countries to step up their efforts to translate international support and sympathy into a clear and frank recognition of the independent Palestinian state declared recently by the PNC in Algiers.

AL-AKHBAR notes that Arab foreign ministers have cancelled their plans to go to New York to demonstrate their solidarity with the Palestinian people against U.S. intransigence, which provides a new condemnation of U.S. policy on the settlement of the Middle East conflict. However, AL-AKHBAR says that the Arabs had better pursue a more positive policy. They should turn the issue of the presence of Arab ministers at the General Assembly debate on the Palestinian issue into a major international political demonstration, to draw attention to the tragedy that the Palestinian people have lived for 40 years and to stress the need to put a decisive end to it.

Editor Comments on Israel, Palestinian State

JN2911160088 Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic
25 Nov 88 pp 4, 5

[Article by Chief Editor Makram Muhammad Ahmad: "Tabah and the Egyptian Recognition of the Palestinian State"]

[Text] Israel will commit its lifetime folly if it imagines that it can punish Egypt for recognizing the Palestinians' right to declare their independent state. The folly will be greater if the Israelis imagine they can use the Tabah issue to blackmail the Egyptian stand, or if they imagine that delaying its return to Egypt can be an appropriate Israeli reply to get revenge against Egypt, which recognized the Palestinian state.

The Israelis had during the days of Begin tried to blackmail Egypt. When President al-Sadat departed and Mubarak came to power, the Israelis thought that they could play the game of blackmail with the president as a test of his power. The Israelis suffered the disillusion that under covert threats to delay withdrawal from Sinai they might be able to obtain new concessions from the new president. For this purpose they set two conditions: That the president should visit Jerusalem so that the visit would serve as an implicit recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel; and that he should sign a new document stressing his continued commitment to the agreements signed during President al-Sadat's tenure.

Due to excessively erroneous calculations, the Israelis used to imagine that the new president would be forced to accept their conditions, especially since part of Sinai was still in their hands pending the final stage of withdrawal. Also due to excessively erroneous calculations, the Israelis used to imagine that the new president would be preoccupied with the issue of entrenching his rule and might therefore respond to the temptation of the Israeli blackmail that the required document would be a secret one.

But Mubarak, supported by all of Egypt, rejected the Israeli blackmail. He rejected the visit and the document, leaving the Israelis the chance to reconsider their stand if the Israeli withdrawal was delayed. The Israeli game was thus blocked and the Israelis were forced to withdraw on the fixed date.

Now it seems there are some who urge Shamir to try again the losing game by declaring that Israel will not abide by the international court verdict to return Tabah in retaliation for Egypt's recognition of the Palestinian state. They are disillusioned that the Israelis who are divided among themselves might find in such a demagogical game a chance to seek distraction from their difficult impasse because delaying withdrawal from Tabah will quench the thirst of a people whom they injected with fear of tomorrow until it lost hope in the

future, surrounded it with doubts until its unity was disrupted, and instilled in it the feeling of isolation until they robbed it of its ability to make a sound choice.

Those who are urging Shamir to this great folly believe that Shamir will be capable, through this losing demagogic game, to overcome the problems confronting him in forming his new government with the religious parties with all their impossible conditions. They also believe that he will be able to pull the Labor Party, which has been torn apart by its loss, to his side, or to push all the Israeli society to more extreme stands, because Shamir, through this game, will be able to give the Israelis a fake mask to a fake unity which will not hide the partitioned society or remove its perplexity.

They also believe that the political battle with Egypt over Tabah now could provide the Israeli Government with a chance to run away into side issues instead of the courageous confrontation of the peace commitments, in answer to the brave decisions taken by the PNC in Algiers. The Palestinians said very clearly: They accept Resolution Nos 242 and 338 as a basis for holding the international conference. What is it that makes Israel furious? They also said that they accept the peaceful settlement as a basis for solving the Arab-Israeli conflict. New international circumstances impose a solution on regional disputes through negotiations or talks. What is there in all that to anger Israel?

They said they reject violence and reject its means. They affirm their respect for the Cairo declaration, so what is making the Israelis angry about that? They also said they accept direct negotiations as means to recognize the right to self-determination. They also said they accept a Palestinian state on the territories occupied by Israel in 1967 which is linked to Jordan by a confederacy, with their readiness to recognize Israel within its secure borders before 1967. What is it then that is angering Israel in that? But Israel's hawks ignored all that to say once again—making light of everyone's brains—that the Palestinians did not offer anything new in the PNC resolutions.

We do not know who Israel's hawks are fooling: Themselves, the world, or the Israeli people, who surely, like any other nation of the world, are aspiring for a true peace to end the whirlwind of war experienced by the region throughout the long years. We do not know who the Israeli hawks are fooling. The Palestinians have offered all that they possess and cannot offer anymore than that, except if what is required is that the Palestinians would sign a document in which they would bless the Israeli occupation of their territory and people for ever.

What value does this document, required by Israel's hawks, hidden behind the limited Israeli understanding of the Camp David accords, have now if the Palestinian people in the occupied territories have found their salvation and liberation in the uprising? The Palestinians, through 'Arafat yesterday during his meeting with President Mubarak, affirmed their concern over peace and hoped that the PNC resolutions would contribute toward an active international action to push the wheel of the international conference and their concern over the necessity of Jordanian-Palestinian coordination.

In the same meeting, President Mubarak has asserted his concern for comprehensive peace for all peoples in the region, including the Israeli people, and his hope that the international community will find the Palestinians' recognition of Resolutions Nos 242 and 338 an incentive to push the international conference wagon. President Mubarak has also called on Israeli officials to be more accurate in their statements. These are the issues which the Israeli hawks must face bravely instead of trying to create a side battle with Egypt over the Tabah question in the hope that through this side battle, they will open a side door that will allow them to escape from the responsibilities of peace or give to a divided society a phony cover for a phony unity that cannot hide the cracks of division.

If tempted by this stand with all its demagogic motives, Israel will be making a great folly because the price will be heavy on all fronts. On the Egyptian front, the price will be heavy because peace, as the Egyptians understand it, is a common effort and responsibility and, before anything else, it is a common need. Peace is not a need for Egypt only, but, principally, it is an Israeli need because Egypt has lived 7000 years, during which it saw many people like Shamir. It has even seen some who were stronger and more courageous who thought that they could change the direction of history or abuse the civilized and geographic constants that are 7000 year-old. Those have gone with time. They went in a number of pages that were forgotten by history and Egypt remained the same. Shamir must remember that his young state has not yet reached 40 years of age. At the end of these 40 years it is standing before a fateful dilemma.

The price will also be heavy on other fronts if Israel refused to implement the Tabah verdict under the pretense that Egypt recognized the independent Palestinian state. The whole world knows what Egypt has done to make peace an Arab and Palestinian option and to make the world countries shoulder their responsibility toward bolstering the peace process in the Middle East in concern for its security and stability. The world knows that in its efforts to achieve a comprehensive peace, Egypt was always talking about a just peace that guarantees the Palestinian people's rights, including their right to self-determination within the framework of a Palestinian state that is linked to Jordan with a confederation.

Now, Israel wants to punish Egypt because Egypt has delivered what it promised and because it prepared all the sides to accept a peace process through which the security of all can be achieved. Tabah will not be lost and

its return will not be delayed. This is the promise of Mubarak, who is standing now on a firm ground backed by all Egyptians who will not accept any Israeli justifications and who understand that peace is a common effort, responsibility, and need. Egypt has many things that guarantee the immediate implementation of an international verdict, whose judges were chosen with Israel's participation.

All that Egypt wants now is the prevailing of wisdom on the part of the Israelis. It wants them to not mix the cards and to head toward the correct direction to employ the appropriate circumstances, which state that there is a possibility to establish comprehensive peace in the Middle East. This is better for the Israelis than escaping through side doors to avoid the responsibilities of peace.

Oil Prices Raised, OPEC Agreement Welcomed

NC2911172788 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1630 GMT 29 Nov 88

[Text] Cairo, 29 Nov (MENA)—Egypt decided today to raise the price of its crude oil by $1.75 a barrel, Hammad Ayyub, deputy chairman of the Egyptian General Petroleum Corporation, said after a meeting of the corporation's pricing committee. Hammad said Egypt welcomes the agreement reached by OPEC and hopes it will be fully observed, since this would necessarily raise the oil price and make the market flourish. He noted that Egypt has always called for the need to maintain stability in the international oil market.

The price of the Egyptian crude oil, effective 1 December, will be as follows: Gulf of Suez, $12.75 a barrel; Bala'im, $11.90 a barrel; Badran, $10.75 a barrel; and Gharib, $10.75 a barrel. During the meeting, the pricing committee discussed the developments in the international oil market in the wake of yesterday's OPEC agreement on production quotas and pricing.

Libya

Mubarak Called by Al-Qadhdhafi 'Last Week'

JN2911154388 Manama WAKH in English
1520 GMT 29 Nov 88

[Text] Doha, Nov 29 (GNA)—Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi telephoned Egyptian President Husni Mubarak last week, press reports said today. Quoting Arab diplomatic sources, Qatari daily AL-RAYAH said that the conversation between the two leaders covered Libyan-Egyptian relations. Al-Qadhdhafi and Mubarak decided to continue contacts between them and hold meetings on various levels in response to numerous Arab mediations, the paper added.

Iranian Industry Minister, Delegation Visit

LD2911152288 Tripoli JANA in English
1440 GMT 29 Nov 88

[Text] Tripoli, 29th Al-Harth [November], JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The joint Libyan Arab-Iranian committee started its first meeting yesterday in the meeting hall in the Grand Hotel in Tripoli. Present at this meeting were the secretary of the General People's Committee for Industry and Mr. B. Nabavi, minister of heavy industry in Iran. At this meeting, the two sides have surveyed matters pertaining to the promotion of the cooperation in the economic, cultural, and industrial spheres between the two countries.

Received by Al-Qadhdhafi

LD2911235588 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland
in Arabic 2300 GMT 29 Nov 88

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution has received the Iranian minister of heavy industry, B. Nabavi, and the delegation accompanying him. They are visiting the Great Jamahiriyah to participate in the Libyan Arab-Iranian joint committee. The meeting was attended by the brother secretary of the General People's Committee for Industry; the Iranian ambassador to the Great Jamahiriyah; and the secretary of the Libyan Arab People's Bureau in Tehran.

PLO's Yasir 'Arafat Leaves Tripoli

LD2511221688 Tripoli JANA in Arabic
1840 GMT 25 Nov 88

[Text] Tripoli, 25 November, (JANA)—Brother Yasir 'Arafat, left Tripoli this evening at the conclusion of his visit to the Jamahiriyah.

Tunisia's Ben Ali Sends Telegram to Al-Qadhdhafi

LD2411094288 Tripoli JANA in English
0850 GMT 24 Nov 88

[Text] Tripoli, 24th November, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The leader of the revolution has received a telegram of thanks and appreciation from Mr. Zine el Abidine Ben Ali president of sisterly Tunisia. It comes in reply to the congratulations sent to him by the leader of the revolution on the first anniversary of the 7th November.

In his telegram to the leader of the revolution, President Ben Ali has reaffirmed his keen desire to continue the joint work for promoting the existing brotherly cooperation relations between Great Al-Jamahiriyah and sisterly Tunisia. He adds that the constant desire to continue the joint work between our two countries urge us all to resolutely concentrate the efforts for the benefit of our brotherly peoples and the laying down of the foundations of the great Arab Maghreb on the bases of integration and support for our Arab and Islamic nation.

Morocco

King Hassan II Interviewed on Regional Affairs

LD2911045388 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 27 Nov 88

[Interview with King Hassan II by an unidentified Madrid ABC correspondent; date and place not given; questions and answers in French followed by translation into Arabic—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Announcer] King Hassan II, may God make him victorious, was interviewed by the Spanish newspaper ABC. His majesty talked about a number of bilateral, regional, and international issues. Here is the full translation of this interview.

[Correspondent] You have deemed it necessary, Your Majesty, to postpone your visit to our country which was scheduled for November. Will you please tell the Spanish public the reasons and causes that led to this postponement?

[Hassan] I must be very frank with the Spanish people and public because Spain is a neighbor. We should always have frank relations with our neighbors. I am a big friend of Spain's but before that, I am the King of Morocco. Therefore, the interests of my country should come above all considerations. The attitude of the Spanish Government during the fourth session of the UN commission seemed to us unfriendly and gratuitous, because if there is any other country that should be neutral it is Spain. Spain knows the past in detail more than any other country; Spain first then France second. Thus, we were expecting a neutral attitude from Spain, namely that the EEC, of which Spain is a member, would remain neutral.

The second point is that the Spanish Government did not take into consideration Moroccan sensitivities when it asked the king of Morocco to enter into direct negotiations with individuals who have no legitimacy. I would never have asked such a thing of the king of Spain. The Spanish Government has no right to impose on me, through its vote, direct negotiations with these people.

The third point is that I believe that the Spanish UN representative or the foreign minister did not carefully study the resolution, which is full of contradictions. On the one hand, it calls for direct negotiations and, on the other hand, it approves the plan and report of the United Nations Security Council. Consequently, the Spanish Government have made two mistakes: first a mistake with regard to the feelings of my country and second a political mistake.

For my part, I would say that this is a passing mistake because the Spanish Government did not wish to understand the contradictions in this resolution. However, I would like to tell you that our public opinion was extremely hurt. Therefore, I was forced to send my son to my brother King Juan Carlos to explain to him these matters and ask him to postpone this visit, which will surely take place, and I will make sure that it does.

[Correspondent] Will this visit take place soon?

[Hassan] Yes, God willing. I hope that it will take place during the first 3 months of next year, if possible. In any case, the visit will take place.

[Correspondent] Will the visit then take place during the first 3 months of next year?

[Hassan] I will be very happy if it takes place during that period.

[Correspondent] Your Majesty has agreed to a referendum in the Western Sahara. This agreement was announced in Nairobi in 1981. Some problems ensued, but now the possibility of holding a referendum within the UN framework is available. Does Your Majesty accept that the result may be in favor of independence for the Sahara?

[Hassan] I proposed holding a referendum because I know the feelings of Moroccans living in the Sahara. But there are many people who have doubts about this. I am certain that the result of the referendum will be positive with regard to ties between Morocco and the Sahara. If the results are contrary to this, which I do not believe they will be, we will then draw the appropriate conclusions.

[Correspondent] However, this will be harmful vis-a-vis Morocco, Algeria, and Mauritania.

[Hassan] It will be damaging for everyone, because tribes of this region, as you know, do not know any boundaries. There are the same tribes living in Mauritania, Moroccan Sahara, Algeria, and the Algerian Sahara. In my view this will represent a very serious problem regarding Mauritanian and Algerian unity, because all other tribes will say we also want our independence. In my opinion, this does not serve the interest of the Greater Maghreb, or the interest of Mauritania, Morocco, and Algeria naturally.

[Correspondent] Does Your Majesty think it would be possible to grant the Sahara autonomous independence, as is the case in the German provinces called Landers?

[Hassan] My wish and aim is the edification of my country from the north to the south on the model of the German provinces. However, I would like to say that this should take place in exactly the same way as these provinces i.e., their true copy. The spirit, philosophy and the way of running the German provinces appealed to me very much and I am strongly attracted to them.

I believe the decentralization system guarantees efficiency on the one hand, and the throne achieves unity on the other hand, particularly that the Moroccan throne represents at the same time a religious and mundane authority. The king in Morocco is also the leader of the faithful, I believe the achievement of unity is through rallying around the throne—while pursuing a regional decentralization system which would be very advanced—will guarantee efficiency and peace. This is my conviction.

[Correspondent] Your Majesty, a short time ago you talked about the Greater Maghreb. In Spain it is believed that the unity of the Greater Maghreb is a very important issue regarding the peoples of North Africa, and also vis-a-vis European Mediterranean countries. At what stage is the unity of the Greater Maghreb?

[Hassan] First of all, there is a nonpolitical will. It is the people's determination for the edification of the Greater Maghreb. This determination is not new, but it has been expressed for years, i.e. for about 50 years. Everyone was dreaming about the edification of the Greater Maghreb unity. The newly independent states first tackled their internal problems. However, at present, our internal commitments have been nearly met, and it has become necessary for us to turn to the Greater Maghreb; we are following this path seriously. We set up committees to study agreements on residence, economy, customs and excise, banking, transport movement of individuals, properties, culture, and education.

What remains now is an agreement on the structures of this organization, and the name to be given to it. This matter was entrusted to the leaders of the countries who are to meet in a summit conference. All other technical agreements have been signed, and this is a very important point. The legal framework of our relations naturally relies on the will of the leaders of the countries, and this is the issue that we will discuss, God willing, in our next meeting.

[Correspondent] What is the state of relations between Morocco and Algeria these days? Is Algeria's support to the Polisario the one that attracts attention? Or are there other matters?

[Hassan] Since the resumption of relations between Morocco and Algeria last June, these relations have become twofold. On the one hand, we have excellent bilateral relations, we have bilateral agreements outside the framework of Maghreban agreements. These agreements are being implemented in a satisfactory way. On the other hand, there is the problem of the Sahara on which we do not agree, and up to now we have not reached any agreement in this regard. I personally believe that if matters take a logical path, the aspect of bilateral relations, which is inevitable and indispensable, will have a great impact on the aspect of differences over the Sahara issue; this requires some time.

[Correspondent] What is Your Majesty's opinion on Libya's role regarding the Mediterranean and also on the international arena? Does Your Majesty have normal relations with Col al-Qadhdhafi?

[Hassan] Yes, we have very normal relations. Col al-Qadhdhafi can be spontaneous from time to time, and when we realize that, the matter ends there.

However, since the resumption of our relations, Libya has fully respected its commitments. Our bilateral relations are excellent and so are our personal relations. Myself and Col al-Qadhdhafi do not share the same views on issues be they on the mediterranean or international matters. This issue concerns me and concerns him. However, each one of us respects the matters on which we agree.

[Correspondent] What is Your Majesty's opinion on the religious influence of Iran in the light of the new situation of this country?

[Hassan] Iran's religious influence will first of all remain confined inside Iran. I personally believe the regime of the religious scholars is not finished yet, because these religious scholars will be around for some time. However, the Shi'ite trend has always existed, and it has not just emerged, there has been a kind of coexistence between Shi'ism and Sunnism for 14 centuries. However, through the distortion of the Shi'ite trend and turning it into an ideology, the Iranians allowed Shi'ism to have a ideological and political aspect, which is in my view harmful and serious, particularly the Ja'fari Shi'ism, which they constitutionally adopted, because there are 93 Shi'ite sects, some are more moderate and more tolerant, while others are more extremist.

The most tolerant sect is the Ja'fari, which was adopted by the Iranian Constitution following the shah's departure. What we are asking from the Shi'a and the Iranians is a continuation of compromise that has been going for 14 centuries, we do not seek to convert them into Sunnis, but we would like them not to make the Ja'fari Shi'a a political ideology. One should go back to the former situation and live in peace as Muslims.

[Correspondent] Are there any problems in Morocco as result of the religious infuence in Iran?

[Hassan] I can say no such problems do exist even in North Africa as a whole, because this region remained, thank God, remote from the problems of the Middle East and the Far East, and obviously remote from the movements that claim to be religious. What is labelled in the Maghreb as Islamic or religious movements are, in my opinion, only local reactions toward the authorities, which express a special attitude of Muslims in the Maghreb.

[Correspondent] How about the Palestinian issue in light of the new situation?

[Hassan] The Palestinian cause is going through a decisive turning point, in my view, particularly concerning the Arab states. This cause was, up to now, a sort of fetter that hampered the march of the Arab world.

[Correspondent] Are we talking here about a fetter, really?

[Hassan] When I say fetter, I mean shackles that tie feet. Whenever the Arab world embarked on any move, it found before it the Palestinian issue. Now, thank God, this issue will be solved soon God willing, and this is my wish. Consequently, the Arab world will feel it has been freed from its shackles, and will be able to play its full role in the world, thanks to its humanitarian resources, its past, and its population. Thus the Arab world would find itself free from these fetters which used to obstruct its movement, because I cannot see at the present time any thing that would hamper the match aimed at holding negotiations for the estabishment of peace in the region.

[Correspondent] Your Majesty, how do you see the policy of the United States in the Mediterranean, on the current international problems following the recent U.S. presidential elections? Do you think that U.S.-Soviet relations will witness a change following the arrival of the new U.S. president?

[Hassan] First of all, one should admit that President Reagan and Gorbachev had enough courage to bring about a relaxation between the East and West. This will be recorded in the history of the Soviet Union and the United States. President Reagan was a great president, and I believe the U.S. people know this reality more than any other people. As for President Bush, whom I have known very well for more then 10 years, he will certainly be more active, because the Reagan administration brought back strength to the United States. He will be able to give more interest to foreign affairs.

President Bush paid numerous visits abroad, as he visited about 90 countries. I believe it is very important for a president of state to have an ample knowledge of geography. Also, I think that President Bush will be more interested in international issues, and will personally deal with the files because he knows them very well. He is a calm, peaceful man. He is a man of principle, characterized by clarity and flexibility, which is required by geography, the international atmosphere, geostrategy, and geopolitics.

Sudan

Islamic Front Threatens Withdrawal From Government

EA2911195788 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1015 GMT 29 Nov 88

[Excerpt] Khartoum, 29 Nov—Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, prime minister and chairman of the Ummah Party, held a meeting last night with Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani, leader of the Democratic Unionist Party [DUP], to discuss developments in the Sudanese peace accord which the DUP leader signed with John Garang's movement in Addis Ababa on 16 November. Muhammad al-Hasan Abdullah Yasin, member of the DUP Political Bureau, was quoted in todays AL-AYYAM as saying that the meeting was part of continuing contacts between the DUP and other political forces on ways of reaching agreement in the move toward peace. He added that contacts are currently under way with the National Islamic Front [NIF] to reach an agreement on the articles of the Sudanese peace agreement.

However, the NIF, the third (?partner) in the government has threatened to withdraw from the government if it attempts to implement or legislate for any official measure freezing the Islamic hudud [shari'a punishments].

Dr Hasan 'Abdallah al-Turabi, the NIF secretary general, also the minister of justice and attorney general, said in a statement reported in today's AL-SUDAN that any move to freeze the hudud would be regarded as a violation of the principle on which NIF participation in the government is based. Dr al-Turabi again stressed that the NIF rejects articles of the peace agreement signed by Al-Mirghani and Garang, particularly those freezing shari'a. [passage indistinct]

Dr al-Turabi stressed that the NIF will agree to the convening of a constitutional conference if favorable conditions for a cease-fire prevail. He said that as a political force the NIF may take part in the constitutional conference, if it withdraws from the government. He pointed out that consultations are being held with the Ummah Party on developments in the political and peace situation. [passage omitted]

PLO's 'Arafat Arrives on 'Short Visit' 28 Nov

LD2911182688 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1300 GMT 29 Nov 88

[Text] Militant Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO, arrived in the country at 2000 yesterday, Monday, on a short visit within the framework of his tour of Arab states following the proclamation of the independent Palestinian state. He will meet with the chairman and members of the Council of State and the prime minister to explain the latest developments of the Palestinian issue and discuss various issues concerning the two fraternal countries as well as the Arab and Islamic worlds.

Makes Statement, Departs

JN2911140988 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1315 GMT 29 Nov 88

[Text] Khartoum, 29 Nov (INA)—PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat left Khartoum this afternoon after a short visit to Sudan during which he met with State Council Chairman Ahmad al-Mirghani and Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi.

The two meetings reviewed Palestinian action in the next stage; that is, in light of developments in the Palestine question.

Mr Yasir 'Arafat expressed the pride of the Palestinian people in the unified Arab stand supporting their struggle which has been crowned by the Palestinian state declaration. He referred to the disgraceful stand of the Syrian regime which stands outside Arab unanimity represented by full recognition of the Palestinian state.

In an exclusive statement to the INA reporter in Khartoum before his departure, 'Arafat said that one is surprised at this regime and its stand which thanked Egypt for its recognition of the Palestinian state, but itself was silent toward the Palestinian struggle.

On the formation of the Palestinian government, Mr Yasir 'Arafat said that discussion on this issue is continuous since the conclusion of the PNC meetings and it will be declared soon. Mr Yasir 'Arafat clarified that the ranks of the Palestinian government will include a batch of the most specialized and competent Palestinian elements in all fields.

Mr 'Arafat also discussed the dazzling Iraqi victory over the Iranian enemy and said that the victory which was accomplished by the Iraqi heroes under the leadership of the great knight Saddam Husayn is not merely a victory for Iraq but also a victory for Palestine and the whole Arab nation.

Mr 'Arafat arrived here sometime late last night.

Romanian Defense Minister, Prime Minister Confer

EA2911200388 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1300 GMT 29 Nov 88

[Text] Yesterday during his meeting with the visiting Romanian delegation led by the Romanian defense minister, Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi discussed aspects of cooperation between the two countries. In a press statement after the meeting the prime minister affirmed Sudan's wish to develop Sudanese-Romanian relations.

'High-Level' Libyan Delegation Arrives 29 Nov

EA2911205888 Khartoum SUNA in English 1630 GMT 29 Nov 88

[Text] Khartoum 29 Nov (SUNA)—A Libyan high-level delegation led by [words indistinct] on a several-day official visit to Sudan. The Libyan defence minister said in a press statement that he will conduct talks with Sudanese officials on the cooperation between the two brotherly countries in all fields and the unity project between the Sudan and Libya. He confirmed that the Libyan Government will support the Sudanese peace initiative which aims at realising security in the country.

The Sudanese-Libyan talks will tackle co-operation between the two neighbouring countries in the field of oil, banking transactions, industry and investment. The talks are expected to touch on the possibility of abolishing entry visas between the two countries.

The Libyan delegation includes the secretaries-ministers of health, transport, training, an official from the Libyan Foreign Bank in addition to two delegations from the Islamic Dawah Association, investment company, and the chairman of the public corporation for agriculture. [sentence as received]

The delegation was received by Premier al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, Defence Minister Gen (rtd) 'Abd al-Majid Hamid Khalil, Foreign Minister Husayn Sulayman Abu Salih, and a number of senior Sudanese officials.

More on Arrival

LD2911195288 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1838 GMT 29 Nov 88

[Excerpts] Khartoum, 29 Nov (JANA)—Colonel Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir arrived in Khartoum this afternoon on a visit to fraternal Sudan. [passage omitted]

Col Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir is accompanied on his visit to fraternal Sudan by the secretary of the General Popular Committee for Communications and Maritime Transport; the secretary of the General People's Committee for the Treasury; the secretary of the General People's Committee for Health; the secretary of the General People's Committee for Vocational Training; the secretary of the World Islamic Call; the chairman of the external Libyan Arab Bank; and the chairman of the national oil organization.

1st Session of Talks Begins

LD3011102488 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0930 GMT 30 Nov 88

[Text] Khartoum, 30 Nov (JANA)—Yesterday evening Colonel Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir and Brother al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, prime minister of brotherly Sudan, attended the first session of Libyan Arab-Sudanese talks at the General Secretariat of the Council of Ministers in Khartoum.

During this session, emphasis was put on the necessity of firmly working to achieve integration in order to reach comprehensive Arab unity—the only solution to face up to the challenges and conspiracies against our Arab nation's aspirations—and in order to achieve pride, dignity, and progress.

The session dealt with various aspects of brotherly cooperation in both brotherly countries in the economic and social fields. Working committees were formed and entrusted with examining the bases of brotherly cooperation and finding new horizons for its development and

consolidation for the benefit of the one Arab people in the two brotherly countries. These committees are expected to start proceedings this morning.

Chadian Delegation Arrives in Khartoum 28 Nov
EA2911194988 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1010 GMT 29 Nov 88

[Text] Khartoum, 29 Nov (SUNA)—A Chadian delegation led by Interior Minister Ibrahim Mahamat Itno, arrived here yesterday. The delegation includes the permanent secretary of the Foreign Ministry and Acheikh ibn Oumar, who reached reconciliation with the Chadian Government after several years of opposition. Today's AL-ADWA reported that the delegation carried a letter from Chadian President Hissein Habre to Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi related to the reconciliation agreement reached in Baghdad recently between the government and the Chadian National Front led by Acheikh ibn Oumar.

The delegation also will hold talks with Sudanese officials on the forces of Acheikh ibn Oumar [word indistinct] currently in Darfur which they entered in the middle of this year [word indistinct] after they were disarmed [words indistinct] and decide about them in coordination with the Chadian Government.

MENA Interviews Al-Ummah Party Official 29 Nov
NC2911155588 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1300 GMT 29 Nov 88

[Text] Cairo, 29 Nov (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has affirmed Egypt's eagerness and interest in establishing peace in southern Sudan in order to achieve stability and progress in fraternal Sudan.

Mubarak's affirmation was expressed during his meeting with members of the Sudanese Al-Ummah Party delegation led by Dr. Ibrahim al-Amin, Sudanese minister of state for Sudanese affairs abroad [title as received.] Dr al-Amin said he had sensed a positive response and an understanding on the part of President Mubarak of the situation Sudan and he described the talks as extremely positive.

In an interview with MENA today, Dr al-Amin said the Addis Ababa peace agreement concluded between Ahmad al-Mirghani, leader of the Democratic Unionist Party in Sudan, and the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement is a positive step toward peace. He noted that peace is the topmost priority of all the political parties and key figures in Sudan, regardless of their inclinations. He noted the prominent role played by the Al-Ummah Party with respect to the peace initiatives at various levels and referred to the party statement that voiced support for the agreement. He called for taking one more step by forming a preparatory committee to arrange for the constitutional conference. He added: We are doing our best to convene this conference, and we believe that the factors that could make this conference a success are available. All the political forces, of whatever inclinations, seek to find a just solution based on objectivity to the existing problems in southern Sudan, he added.

Dr al-Amin, who is deputy secretary of the Al-Ummah Party for foreign affairs [title as received], said the agenda of the constitutional conference includes some points that aim to thaw the ice between the Sudanese Government and John Garang's movement.

Regarding the Sudanese defense minister's aircraft that came under rocket attack in Waw, the capital of Bahr al-Ghazal Province in southern Sudan, Dr al-Amin said the incident caused bitterness and pain for many people. However, we believe that the issue of peace must come first, and this incident will not dissuade us from going ahead with the constitutional conference to reach a lasting solution to the issue.

Speaking about the true nature of the contacts with Libya, Dr Ibrahim al-Amin said: There are those who want to have exclusive relations with Sudan at the expense of others. We reject this and say it clearly and openly that Sudan is going through difficult circumstances and is surrounded by international and regional conflicts. We have been greatly affected by the complications that took place in Chad, Ethiopia, and Uganda. These have negatively affected our security, social, and economic positions. He added: Sudan is seeking to establish balanced relations with all its neighbors on bases of cordiality and good neighborliness. We refuse to be part of any regional or international axis because our task now is to unite Sudan. There are many difficulties in talk about unity with any country.

He noted that the political decisionmaking in Sudan is complicated because of the plurality of political forces. He said: No single party can alone make a decision. There are in also the labor unions, public opinion, and the Sudanese press. All these are pressing and effectual factors. We back comprehensive unity as a strategy, but we refuse to be a party to the establishment of bilateral unity with any country.

Concluding his statement, Dr al-Amin spoke about current Arab issues. He underlined Sudan's backing and support for the new Palestinian state. He said that the U.S. stand on the Palestinian issue and toward PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat deserves condemnation and denunciation by all peace-loving forces. He added that there is no justification for the U.S. stand, which is against the United Nations before being against the Palestinians.

Dr al-Amin is scheduled to leave Cairo for Khartoum early tomorrow morning at the end of a 5-day visit to Cairo.

Forces Claim 52 Rebels Killed in Gogrial Attack
LD2911194288 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1300 GMT 29 Nov 88

[Text] On 25 November, our Armed Forces carried out an intensive attack on two rebel camps in the Gogrial area east of Gogrial town. The two camps were completely destroyed and huge losses were inflicted on the rebel forces amounting to 52 killed and 150 wounded. Our forces seized a number of weapons and ammunition as follows: one improved Gronov machinegun, one RPG-7 gun, one Kalashnikov assault rifle, one Mark-4 rifle, one shotgun, one GF grenade, two RPG-7 rockets, and a number of Gronov and Kalashnikov magazines. Two ammunition stores of different types and equipment were also destroyed. Our losses amounted to two slightly wounded. God is great! Death and destruction to the enemies of the homeland!

PDRY

Reportage on Visit of USSR Military Delegation

Visits Artillery, Rocket Corps

EA2511093388 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 24 Nov 88

[Text] A Soviet military delegation led by Lieutant General Yuriy Ivanovich (Shomilikhin), now visiting Democratic Yemen, paid a visit to the Artillery and Rocket Corps this morning. In a brief friendly meeting with the Corps commander, Brother 'Ali Sa'id 'Ubayd, member of the Central Committee and commander of the Artillery and Rocket Corps, welcomed the guest delegation and briefed it on the history of the Artillery and Rocket Corps, its development and achievements, and its heroic role in defending the revolution and homeland. He said: This visit will strengthen and develop the firm militant relations between our two armies and peoples through the exchange of experience and through close study of the development of our armed forces.

The delegation expressed great pleasure with this visit and affirmed the Soviet Union's permanent readiness to support our country and its Armed Forces. The delegation then paid a field visit to some study classes. In his remarks in the visitors book, Comrade (Shomilikhin) praised the development of the material base of the Artillery and Rocket Corps and wished the combatants of the Corps growth and success in the future. Brother 'Ali Sa'id and the Soviet military delegation exchanged token gifts.

Tours Other Military Sites

EA2811223488 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 27 Nov 88

[Excerpt] The Soviet military delegation currently visiting our country, led by Lieutenant General Yuriy (Shomilikhin), chief of staff of the USSR land Artillery and Rocket Corps, toured the military college and the staff officers and commanders school this morning. The delegation was briefed on the progress of education and training and inspected classes in the college and school. There was an exchange of token gifts with the commands of the military college and the staff officers and commanders school. The delegation recorded their impressions in the visitors book praising the high level of fighting and political training in the military commands of the college and school.

The day before yesterday [25 November] the delegation visited Sayun Province in the Governorate of Hadramawt during which they were shown the historical and cultural landmarks in the province. The delegation visited Al-Ahqaf library in Tarim and the folklore and traditions museum. They also witnessed the monuments to architecture in Shibam. The delegation expressed admiration for the landmarks of high culture which reflected the originality of our Yemeni people and their immortal and ancient civilization. The delegation was accompanied by Brother Lieutenant Colonel 'Ali Sa'id 'Ubayd, member of the Central Committee and commander of the Artillery and Rocket Corps.

Meets With Army Chief

LD2811223588 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 28 Nov 88

[Excerpt] Brother Colonel Haytham Qasim Tahir, candidate member of the [YSP] Political Bureau, first deputy defense minister and chief of the General Staff, received in his office this morning Lt Gen Yuriy (Shomilikhin), chief of staff of the Soviet Land Artillery, and his delegation who are currently visiting our country. Brother Haytham briefed the Soviet military delegation on our people's revolutionary achievements and gains in the past years—particularly after the victory over the 13 January [1986] abortive bloody conspiracy—in all fields of economic, social, and military life.

He referred to the great and sincere support provided by the USSR to our country for the construction of the new Yemeni society. He also briefed them on the stages of development and growth of the military forces in our country and their heroic and effective role in defending the people's gains in the different stages and turns which our revolution had gone through. He referred to the great strides taken by our military forces and the high level they have reached in political and combat readiness.

For his part, Comrade General (Shomilikhin) presented a brief explanation on the economic and political transformations in the USSR under perestroyka and the role played by the CPSU and the Soviet people in the sphere of world peace, curbing the nuclear arms race, and banning its spread. He praised the high level achieved by our Armed Forces in strengthening their defense capability and raising the level of political consciousness. At the end of the meeting there was an exchange of gifts. The meeting was attended by Brother Lieutenant Colonel 'Ali 'Ubayd, member of the Central Committee and commander of the Artillery and Rocket Corps. [passage omitted]

Official Talks With Soviet Energy Official End

EA2611044488 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 25 Nov 88

[Excerpts] The official talks between Democratic Yemen and the USSR ended at the Ministry of Energy and Minerals today. The talks were chaired on the Yemeni side by Brother Salih Abu Bakr bin Husaynun, member of the Central Committee, deputy prime minister, and minister of energy and minerals; and on the Soviet side by Comrade Shcherbina, deputy prime minister and chairman of the Feul and Energy Complex.

A number of matters affecting technical and economic cooperation and other issues of common interest in the field of energy and minerals were discussed, particularly ongoing work to develop oil fields in Shabwah Governorate, a pipeline-laying project, and completion of a thermal power station and water desalination complex. The two sides agreed to study documents related to the completed initial exploration for gold in Wadi Mudan

and to take rapid steps in this respect. Both sides expressed gratification for the decisions of the first session in Aden this month of the oil subcommittee emanating from the standing committee for economic and technical cooperation.

A protocol was signed providing for the development of prospecting and a program laid down for the next stages of implementation of work on projects for economic cooperation between our country and the USSR. It was signed by Brother Salih Abu Bakr bin Husaynun on the Yemeni side and by Comrade Shcherbina on the Soviet side. [passage omitted] The Soviet delegation left Aden this morning after a visit of several days. [passage omitted]

Yemen Arab Republic

Reportage on Visit of Jordan's King Husayn

Arrives 29 Nov

EA2911184288 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 29 Nov 88

[Excerpt] His Majesty King Husayn ibn Talal, King of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, arrived at Sanaa International Airport at 1600 on a visit to our country. He will meet his brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president, commander in chief, and secretary general [of the YSP]. [passage omitted]

Meets With President Salih

JN2911205088 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 29 Nov 88

[Text] The two brother leaders Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, and His Majesty King Husayn ibn Talal, king of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, held a meeting at 2000 this evening in the Presidential Palace in Sanaa. They exchanged views on new developments in the Arab arena and international issues of mutual concern. They also discussed fraternal relations between the two countries and means of promoting and increasing joint cooperation in various fields to benefit the two fraternal peoples and countries.

His Majesty King Husayn ibn Talal, king of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, arrived at Sanaa International Airport at 1600 this evening on a visit to our country, during which he will meet with the brother leader Col Secretary General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. [passage indistinct]

Begins Official Talks 29 Nov

JN3011090488 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 30 Nov 88

[Text] The official round of talks between our country and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan was held at the presidential palace at 2100 last night under the two brother leaders Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, and His Majesty King Husayn ibn Talal, king of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

The two sides discussed current developments in the Arab and international arenas, and issues of interest to our Arab and Islamic nations, particularly the Palestine question in light of the PNC resolutions and the declaration of the independent Palestinian state. They discussed the Zionist authorities' repressive and terrorist measures against the Palestinian Arab people in the occupied territories in a desperate attempt to quell the mammoth popular revolution in the occupied Palestinian territories. They also discussed fraternal relations of cooperation between the two countries and means of promoting them in all fields in the interest of the peoples of the two fraternal countries and the Arab and Islamic nations.

The two sides expressed extreme satisfaction with the promotion and development of fraternal cooperation between the countries. They stressed the importance of coordination and consultations to bolster Arab solidarity in a manner that would enable the Arab nation to overcome all challenges and to support the Palestinian people's struggle under the PLO, their sole and legitimate representative, to restore their national inalienable rights, foremost of which is the establishment of the independent Palestinian state on their national soil with holy Jerusalem as its capital. The two sides also stressed the importance of Arab action to back the PNC resolutions and to hold the international conference for peace in the Middle East under UN auspices, and with the participation of the UN Security Council permanent member states and all the parties concerned, including the PLO, with the objective of achieving a just and lasting peace based on guaranteeing the Palestinian people's national inalienable rights.

Attending the talks on the YAR side were brothers 'Abd al-Karim 'Abdallah al-'Arashi, Consultative Council speaker and Standing Committee member; 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, prime minister and Standing Committee member; Dr 'Abd al-Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister, foreign minister, Standing Committee member, and head of the escort mission; 'Ali Muhammad al-Anisi, director of the president's office and Standing Committee member; Ahmad Muhammad al-Radi, secretary general of the Presidency; and 'Ali Abu al-Luhum, YAR ambassador to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

Attending the talks on the Jordanian side were Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i, Royal Court chief Marwan al-Qasim, and Jordan's Ambassador in Sanaa Sa'd al-Batayinah.

Tariq 'Aziz Accuses Iran of POW 'Blackmail'
JN2911181788 Baghdad INA in English 1735 GMT 29 Nov 88

[Text] United Nations, Nov. 29 INA—Iraq said today that Iran is practicing "trickery and blackmail" in carrying out an agreement between the two countries on the exchange of prisoners of war. A statement from Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign minister Tariq 'Aziz, sent to U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar and distributed to the Security Council today, said the agreement on the exchange of sick or wounded prisoners of war was reached on the principles of "proportionality and reciprocity," with the daily return of 115 prisoners from Iran and 41 from Iraq.

The first Red Cross aircraft arriving in Baghdad last Friday, the statement added, had only 52 Iraqi prisoners instead of the 115 expected. So long as the Iranian authorities did not comply with the terms of the agreement the two countries made with the International Committee of the Red Cross, the statement continued, Iraq would release only the number of sick or wounded prisoners in terms of the proportion agreed, based on the number released by Iran. Mr. 'Aziz's statement asked the international community to exert pressure on the Iranian regime to renounce its "trickery and blackmail," and honor its commitments and comply with international humanitarian law.

Saddam Husayn Addresses Arab Lawyers Union
JN2911082788 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0640 GMT 28 Nov 88

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Nov (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has affirmed that after what happened and after the overwhelming majority of Iranian people realized that their rulers were wrong, you should be reassured that your country Iraq and your people in Iraq will be more capable than before of confronting plots from any source. Addressing members of the Permanent Bureau of the Arab Lawyers Union, who awarded his excellency the Band of Victory, President Saddam Husayn added: We must search for bridges to join us together instead of searching for a state of rupture in which there are no bridges between coasts. No Arab state or person can be strong if not linked to sisterly states or Arab brothers with a high spirit of fraternity.

The president said: I announce before you that all those who were convicted or wanted by justice for political reasons have been granted a general amnesty, whether they are inside or outside Iraq, with the exception of those who worked as agents and spies for Iran and the aggressor Iranian Army. The president added that we will increase the base of democratic representation by allowing new parties besides the parties that exist in the National Front to have their say. We will allow the formation of new parties in addition to those already existing so that they will take their place in society. We have adopted plurality in our party system both accurately and deeply.

Following is the text of President Saddam Husayn's address:

I am pleased to meet with my colleagues and brothers, the Arab lawyers, through my meeting with representatives of Arab lawyers throughout the Arab homeland. I am aware of the Arab lawyers' championing their nation's causes not only in this issue, on which we are exchanging congratulations, but also in all Arab causes. The Arab lawyers were the first to champion their nation's cause. They championed one of their nation's causes when I was in the last year of my secondary studies and when 'Abd al-Karim Qasim, who represented the head of anti-Arab viper and the state of dictatorship in Iraq, was struck at.

Part of my exercise of responsibility regarding the subject of war was close to the role of a lawyer who defends a just case, although I have not practiced law since having the honor of obtaining a law certificate. I understand the lawyer's role as one of defending right and justice. You defended and are defending your case, in which Iraq was a sort of a field lawyer defending a just cause. You did not defend Arabism regardless of its practices, or let us say you did not defend politics regardless of their trends or simply because they are practiced on Arab territory by Arabs. You defended what is right.

When the right is an Arab right, it is natural for this to appeal to all your humanitarian and pan-Arab capabilities. Such was the case. Certainly this is what called up all the humanitarian, pan-Arab, and national feelings in the hearts and minds of the Iraqis when they fought in defense of justice against falsehood. Falsehood with all its domains, contents, and meanings takes a false view of religion, the rights of neighbors, and relations among neighbors. It also takes a false view of life and oneself. One who does not appreciate himself as he is and does not know the limits of his responsibility and rights will have a false opinion of himself. We thank God that He has supported you and implanted faith in the hearts of your people in Iraq so that they can fight as they should and in a manner that makes you now express pride in what these people accomplished and offered in their fighting.

I agree with the brother from Jordan, who spoke about probable dangers facing Iraq after its victory. To be acquainted with the extent of his vigilant view, we must recall the day preceding the liberation of Al-Faw. What did others say about the conflict in the war? They said that the war could not be decided militarily, and if it would be decided militarily, it would be decided in favor of Iran, not Iraq. When they said that it would be decided in favor of Iran, they meant that Iran would

triumph over Iraq because this was Iran's slogan. This was said 1 day before the liberation of Al-Faw. Before this, they said that Iran would triumph over Iraq. And if Iran had triumphed over Iraq, this strong bastion on the east flank of the Arab homeland, imagine the flood that would have prevailed. When the Zionists and the Arab nation's enemies believed that the war would not be decided militarily, and if decided militarily would favor Iran—when they saw a situation completely contrary it was natural for them to be upset, disturbed, and off balance. It was also natural to see them placing their reaction within the framework of a program. However, I would like to say to my brothers that your country, Iraq, faced the dangers when the Iranian people had not yet realized that their rulers were wrong. I would also like to say that Iraq faced evil when many Iranians mistakenly believed that their rulers were right. What was right in their opinion was the occupation of Iraq and the establishment of an empire under the slogan of Islam inside and outside the Arab homeland in a following step. They also believed in Iran's right to rule in Islam.

We faced people who said, and we did not say this, that those who fought with the Iranian Army against the Iraqi Army numbered over 4 million fighters. This last statement was made in the past week. Is this right, Comrade Latif [Nusayyif Jasim]? They could not extinguish the light in your eyes and that of all the honest Arabs and their children who are waiting for a state in which we live free in our country and seek to build our human, national, and pan-Arab role without any ridiculous interference from this or that side. After all that happened and after the overwhelming majority of the Iranian people have realized that that their rulers are wrong, you should be reassured that your country, Iraq, and your people in Iraq are more capable than before of confronting plots from any source. This is because a successful experiment—not the outcome of an opportunity resulting from occasional circumstances but of accumulated experiments—is capable of confronting a similar state and more or less difficult state in a subsequent stage.

Your victory over wrong is not the upshot of factors outside the framework of man's decision in Iraq. Your victory has been based on the fighters' will and maturity and on the people's maturity. This is the result of the Arabs maturity and the Arabs will—represented by the Iraqis' will and the Iraqi fighters' will. When the upshot is the result of mature action and sound decisions, the results will be successful. It is only natural for the accumulation of experience to be capable of confronting similar cases, or cases that are more or less difficult, especially when determination remains in Iraq, when there is a high level of maturity, and when there is patience and wisdom.

As I said yesterday to the Arab youths, I say and affirm today that we in the Arab homeland have to look for bridges to join us and link coasts instead of looking for rupture. Any force in the Arab homeland, be it a country or a group of persons, cannot be wise if it does not cooperate with its brothers with a high sense of brotherhood.

On this basis, we criticize those who say our distinguished relationship with such a country can allow us to interfere in its domestic affairs, including occupying it militarily. We say the contrary. If this peculiarity exists, it should bring parties closer. It should have another meaning. Instead of occupying a sisterly country, with which we have distinguished historical relations greater than with others according to the calculations of geographic proximity, our existing relations should be based on dialogue, affection, and interaction. This is the correct approach. For example, this is like saying that the excellent relations between Iraq and Jordan allow Jordan to intervene militarily in Iraq's affairs.

Is this acceptable? On the contrary, this should be completely excluded from the calculations of both Iraq and Jordan. Hence we criticize military interference in Lebanon's affairs and say that this interference cannot solve the problem, whether this interference comes from Iraq or others. Likewise, we cannot accept the military interference of the Arab Maghreb countries into each other's affairs. Such action does not at all make us in a practical sense sons of one nation. In this case, we can be the sons of the same nation in history, but in the present we would be very far from being one nation.

Therefore, brothers, I believe that as a start we Arabs—and officials in particular—should not blame the people. The people have no role in any negative development so far. If a positive development occurs, the people must have a role in it. If a negative development occurs, the rulers alone are to blame for such negative developments in the Arab homeland. It is natural for the rulers to have a vanguard role in positive developments. This is because in today's world, it is hard to imagine a major positive development in Arab relations without the intitiative of the rulers. The president of the Jordanian Bar Association said that the starter of the Arab vehicle is the cohesion of Iraq, Syria, Jordan, and the PLO to confront the enemies of the Arab nation.

The president said: The relationship among Iraq, the PLO, Jordan, and Syria—as my brother from Jordan said—has special meaning. A link must be established among these three [as received] names in the service of the Arab nation. This is a topic for discussion, on which we must comment frankly as Arab citizens and Arab officials when it is raised.

The most earnest relationship in the Arab homeland after Arab independence was the unity between Syria and Egypt. Other similar cases were not as earnest as this one. That unity enjoyed great popular pan-Arab support in the Arab homeland. You remember that. However, a force of camel riders in Syria managed to dismantle that

unity. Therefore, this is a lesson that needs no elaboration. We stand at this point and say this is a lesson. This unity has taught us that we must not start from the top. Even when it seems to officials that some major circumstances required for unity have occurred, the role of the political leadership should be that of facilitating the movement of sap from roots to the branches, and mixing it with the sap that flows down, represented by the decisions of higher leaderships. Pan-Arab action must start from the roots. We must be patient. Our nation has lived a long time outside its national role. Had it not been for the holy Koran and the tribes, many of our pan-Arab characteristics would have been erased to various degrees.

When the foreigners with all their forms and colors left, the Arabs achieved independence. Some Arab countries enjoyed 70 years of independence and others enjoyed 50, 40, or 30 years of independence. So, we were absent from our pan-Arab role for a long time. When we are absent for a long time, we should resume our pan-Arab role in joint action, not as separate entities, because such entities will remain weak regardless of the size of any Arab country or army like the one you are talking about. Such a country or army is weak in itself because any confrontation by the enemy will not take that country's capability alone into consideration. Instead, it will view the entire Arab nation as the country that it will confront. In any confrontation, the other side will take into consideration the capability of the entire nation if it wants to achieve victory over a certain country. If the enemy does not confront the entire Arab nation and its principles, values and practical aspects, it will be defeated.

What is meant is Arab action, in which all the Arabs become involved on the basis of joint action and concerted and specified joint goals. Let our action be patient, wise, and convincing so that our step can be decisive and followed by other steps. What has happened in the pan-Arab action for a long time is that when we take a certain step, we admire and support it, but after a while, we retreat from it and we may start again from where we began the first step. Why are the Arabs satisfied in general with the GCC? They are satisfied because it is a reasonable action. It started with an economic, social, and political harmony among them. These countries needed unity of word at any possible level. Before the GCC was established, I was asked by some Arab officials why Iraq was not part of that plan.

I said that Iraq has other characteristics that might not befit certain aspects of our brothers' characteristics. Iraq's entry may prevent the GCC from acting seriously and practically to achieve its goals. Therefore, we should bless the GCC without proposing Iraq or any other country. Our fraternal Arabian Gulf countries, except Iraq, need this unity. We blessed it and will continue to bless it. If our brothers in the Gulf ask Iraq about entering the unity, we will express our gratitude to them. But if they, as Arabs, come and say that Iraq must enter the unity because the unity needs Iraq, we will discuss it. However, we thank them, bless their unity, and encourage them to move in this direction—a power for us in Iraq, a power for us in Algeria, and a power for us in Egypt as long as it seeks high-level capability. When unity is achieved by Arab Maghreb countries, we will bless it strongly. The more Arab countries become closer, the more we move toward uniting them into a larger entity—not merely gathering them. As separate entities, they must coordinate their joint steps within a larger entity. This is the case at any time and in light of any logic or practical discussion of the subject.

I would like to discuss my Jordanian brother's proposal for the establishment of a special relationship among Iraq, Syria, Jordan, and the PLO. I can say that if such a relationship occurs or a dialogue is held to establish such a relationship and then a man from Yemen comes and asks us why we are establishing such a relationship, we must give him a convincing answer. If we tell him that it is aimed at liberating Palestine, he will ask us specific questions about our behavior toward the Palestinians and Palestine. If we tell him it is aimed at cooperation among ourselves, he will ask us: Why are you ruling out Yemen? He will also say: You in Iraq experienced an ordeal—the ordeal of the entire Arab nation, not of Iraq alone. God put you in this place from which you defend the Arab nation.

Yemen supported you politically and in other areas and the Syrian regime stood by the side of the occupier and invading enemy. He will ask us: Why are you ruling out Yemen and including Syria? If the issue is that of a people and a geographic position, you are not establishing a relationship with a people and geographic position, but you are establishing a political relationship with the existing regime itself. This is a question which we have to answer. I neither want to rule out nor accept what you have mentioned. If we answer, we will be asked whether those ruling Syria have changed their mind. This stand has continued for 8 years, not 1 week—to say that is a mistake or the deception of the devil. Right? It is an action which has lasted 8 years.

Even those tempted by the devil have been given an opportunity by your brothers in Iraq. I do not mean those in Syria, but anyone deluded by the devil and who hesitated to extend support. They were given full opportunity, whether they were reluctant or had confused information. They have had every opportunity for 8 years to get acquainted with information. Those confused by Iran's argument have had every opportunity to scrutinize this argument. But their stand continued to be alongside the enemy for 8 years.

You all heard what the enemy wants. It said it wants to occupy Iraq, after which it will start to occupy other Arab countries according to its potential and ability and according to the capability and resistance of other Arab countries. Regardless of religion, the enemy is a foreigner. We said that an Arab does not have the right to occupy another Arab country. If this is the case, how can

we accept that a foreigner occupies an Arab country? Did this regime, Iraqis, change its way of thinking for it to be chosen from among all Arabs to meet with it within an entity operating in isolation from the Arab framework? We must answer this question. Our people will ask us the same question.

Our people in Lebanon will say: Iraqis, you say that you are pan-Arabs. We will tell them: That is correct. The Iraqis are nationalists and, at the same time, pan-Arabs. They will ask us: Do you believe there is pan-Arab interest in the Syrian Army's occupation of Lebanon? If there is a pan-Arab interest tell us so as to add it to the new relationship. If there is no pan-Arab interest, then you are saying one thing and doing another. You are seeking a better future for the Arab nation. We do not know whether this will happen or not.

However, this behavior should continuer. You ask us why we do not establish a new relationship with Egypt. If what is meant is a major pan-Arab action, Egypt is larger than Syria in terms of people, territory, and potential. If what is meant is geographic contact, why do you not establish such a special relationship with Saudi Arabia? Why do you not establish such a special relationship with Kuwait? Have you asked the Saudis or Kuwaitis? If you present to them such a stand they might say that we have the GCC or they might say: Yes, we want such a relationship. This is an example. My intention is to say that any unity action must be practical and reasonable. If the purpose is to reach economic cooperation for example and move forward one step at a time we should then agree on the issues that undermine the joint steps before moving any step forward.

Will the Syrian regime follow the same course against Jordan for example? We have a special relationship—as you called it—with Jordan. The Syrian regime might tomorrow think of going to Amman under certain circumstances. It is correct that it cannot occupy Amman because it attempted to push its Army to the border with Jordan to frighten it when the summit was held in Amman [in 1980] but, Jordan was not frightened. You know that the political regimes, God forbid, pass through periods of strength, weakness, inadvertence, alertness, and so forth. If it crosses its mind to go and occupy Amman, will Iraq stand with folded arms to say: Thank you because you have occupied another Arab country after Lebanon. You all, not only the people of Amman, will not accept this.

Therefore, what will our stand be and what will the result of this step be if we are not agreed at least on basic principles? In my opinion, the Arabs should first agree on the prohibitions. As the popular colloquial saying goes, "this person is whimsical deeming anything good or bad". This means that, as far as he is concerned, everything is lawful according to his judgement. He could also call certain good things which he has to do, bad, such as helping the close members of his family when they need him or keeping them home when one of them falls ill. These are all good deeds, but he might consider them bad deeds and claim that he will not do them. Therefore, it depends on his mood. Some of the popular concepts among us in the country and among the tribes claim, "fear only the person who sets no limits on bad behavior". This means one should fear the person who has no limits on bad behavior. This also means that, even among the tribes, clans, villages, and districts, there is a limit which the human being should not exceed. If he does, he is absolutely useless.

Therefore, among us as Arab countries, we must agree on a limit which we should not exceed. In the media for example, we should agree that abusing and gossiping about the faults of Arab leaders is unlawful. I wonder. We should also consider that the heads of state and kings amongst themselves, do not talk about each other, call each other names, or curse each other; but that they analyze, make points, and criticize wrong or deviant political behavior. They should not curse each other in public. We should realize that some day they might meet for some joint action or specific interaction. The one eye would embarrass the other. I told one Arab leader once that the most important thing now is that I was not embarrassed before him because I have not committed any wrong toward him.

But you might perhaps be embarrassed, or perhaps not, before me. One should realize this. One of the things which should be prohibited is the Arabs disagreeing on the fact that an Arab is hitting another Arab with arms I do not think that they will agree on this in reality since this is a state of fragmentation. However, even if they agree on it, it is less dangerous than when an Arab sides with a foreigner to hit another Arab with arms or when an Arab takes sides with a foreigner, with a French person for example. Let us assume that Iraq has a good relationship with France. Saddam Husayn would then sit down with the French president in Baghdad or Paris. Let us use this as an example of similar situations which have already happened, where issues and the fate of Jordan were discussed. Is this possible? This has happened here in the Arab world. An Arab head of state met with a representative of a foreign country president to discuss issues of another Arab. It did not even occur to them to invite the head of that state for a cup of tea to tell him: "We want you only to listen and not comment. We have decided to discuss the fate of your country." Iraq is not swayed by special sensitivites with Syria. This is not the case. This is how we perceive relations should be between Arab states. God forbid, if Iraq should deviate from the right path, we would want the Arabs to send in their armies to correct things. If Iraq should become intoxicated by its power and moved to overwhelm another Arab state, the Arabs would be right to deploy their armies to check it. How will it be possible for us to live together and trust each other if the minimum mutual trust is lacking. How else can we embark on any common effort—economic, social, political, or military? If you walk with your brother with your gun ready it is like keeping the company of Chicago gangsters. If this is the

type of relations we maintain we cannot go far. If our brothers in the Arab east, for instance, team up in some kind of union and if our brothers in the Arab Maghreb likewise decide on unionist moves, this makes sense. But where does the first step begin? I think the first step must begin with those who possess the minimum requirements of shared outlooks.

When a Sudanese or Jordanian official comes to Iraq he is made to feel very much at home. This is because Iraq's relations with Sudan and Jordan have not suffered any problems. On the other hand, if a Syrian official should come here, the mothers of 10 or 20 thousand martyrs are likey to accost him and ask: Why did you kill my son? In other words there is blood between us now. I am not saying we must perceive this a tribal vendetta and let it get in the way of wise policies. But we have to keep this in mind for the foundations of our policies to be acceptable to the people. More importantly, we must make sure that this [Syrian] regime will not repeat what it has done in Lebanon anywhere else. This also applies to the Syrian regime's stand on the Iraq-Iran war. It may be supposed that their stand was the result of certain sensitivities.

However, when we can be sure that this will not recur it will be possible to discuss establishing a semblance of relations with Syria. If a special kind of relationship is to be forged, say, among the PLO, Iraq, Syria, and Jordan, the question must be asked: On what basis? If it is to help each other out economically, we are all bankrupt. Of course I am speaking in jest as a human being is judged rich if he is intrinsically so. Man is also made rich by his work and all of us are able to work. Even among non-oil producers there is room for cooperation. Cooperation is not about one putting a million in the pocket of another. Rather when you have a surplus in a production line you export it to another Arab country rather than to France, for instance, and so both sides stand to gain. Therefore, both sides would benefit by a cycle of economic cooperation. This can be achieved through specialization in certain products. For example, Iraq possesses energy, Jordan does not. Jordan possesses raw materials and more qualified and trained manpower in certain fields than Iraq. Iraq may not have the raw materials and trained manpower required for a particular product. Therefore, it is better for this particular product to be produced in Jordan and with a guarantee of the Iraqi market than to produce it in Iraq, where the prerequisites of sound economic growth may not be available.

Therefore, generally speaking, brothers, we are not against any joint Arab plan comprising all Arab countries or group of them, provided that this does not constitute an axis aimed against any Arab country or intended to isolate any Arab country. Rather, such a plan should be aimed at cooperation. We support collective practical Arab steps, including Syria. These steps should not exclude any Arab country and should be within the framework of the Arab League. We should not raise sensitivities against any joint Arab action, including the steps I have already mentioned. This issue is above sensitivities. The destiny of all of you would have been jeopardized had the Iranians managed to occupy Iraq, in addition to what the holy places and principles in Iraq mean to you from the historical, legal, and other viewpoints. I tried to review with you some general aspects of this large picture. He who wants to go deeper into the details will find this picture unbearably bitter.

I say this so that this situation will not obstruct collective practical steps among Arabs, including Syria, within the Arab League. When we discuss steps comprising smaller numbers, like discussing the Arab East or the Arab Maghreb following the GCC example, the issue in this case takes a different meaning. We must be completely sure that such a step will be in the interests of the Arab nation before taking it. However, if we find that it is not in the interests of the Arab nation, there will be no need to take a step on paper and then reverse it. This is because this adds new frustration to the Arab nation and Arab masses. I am very happy to meet you.

Speaking at the meeting, Ahmad al-Khawajah, president of the Arab Lawyers Union and of the Egyptian Bar Association, said: I support his excellency the president's point that it is impermissible for any Arab country to interfere in the affairs of another Arab country, just as it is impermissible for any Arab country to attack another Arab country. If the government of an Arab country happens to follow a course hostile to pan-Arab action or collective unionist action, or to act contrary to the principles of the Arab nation, are we supposed to keep silent about what is taking place in front of us? My brothers and I heard Your Excellency talking about Iraqi-Syrian relations and also heard the Syrian president talking about Iraq-Syrian relations. When we speak, we aim to unite, not disunite. I should not backbite anybody. However, I realized that I was not discussing an issue or a cause. I realized that the discussion was taking a personal dimension. This issue is one of rulers. It cannot be our issue when a leader says that the only way to halt the war is Saddam's resignation or unity between Syria and Iraq. When we used to hear such talk, we never remained silent because no matter how prestigious a ruler becomes, this prestige is linked to his nation and his behavior within this nation. But when matters reach a point at which silence is impossible, then something should be done. By this I mean that if I see an Egyptian ruler assist Iran in striking at Iraq, as an Egyptian, I can hold daily news conferences and seminars in my country to state that this behavior is wrong. We must allow people to express themselves. Unfortunately, what prevents the people from expressing themselves in a sound manner are the restrictions that regimes impose on the people's right to speak freely. Therefore, if I ignore what is currently taking place in Syria, everything that I have said will be meaningless. There is also the incorrect slogan that used to prevail to the effect that we cannot liberate Palestine without Iran.

Such talk used to be circulated in the Arab arena and in universities. I told them: If we cannot liberate Palestine without Iran, why then should we transfer the battle from Israel to Iraq?

As a lawyer, I once spoke in a shipping case. A vessel laden with weapons, with the Bandar-e Khomeyni port as its destination, was impounded. I discovered at the time that the relationship among Israel, arms brokers, and Iran had started on the very 1st day of the fighting and goes back to 1980. We started saying that Iraq has exposed the cooperation in various fields between Iran and Israel. I am one of those who love Damascus as much as Cairo. I also love the Syrian people as much as the Egyptian or Iraqi people. However, I believe that one should not remain silent on what is taking place in Damascus, no matter how bitter this will make us. With its glorious trend, which rejects vituperation, and all forms of differences among governments, Iraq, which is also victorious, must try to place Syria on the sound pan-Arab course. Iraq dispatched an army to the eastern front in 1973 to repulse the Israeli aggression.

Commenting on this, President Saddam Husayn said: I am ready anywhere for the sake of the Arab nation. In 1973, we sent three divisions—not brigades—to Syria. When the cease-fire was observed on the Syrian front we had several divisions that had taken up positions on the front. Two more divisions were also on their way. Thus, we had five divisions there, not to mention the Air Force, which operated on the Egyptian and Syrian fronts.

Ahmad al-Khawajah said: What I meant is an Iraqi army fought on the Syrian-Israeli border. This army was not protecting Iraqi territory, and Iraqi territory was not threatened at the time. Syrian territory was threatened at the time. However, this is Iraq's duty and the duty of all who can do something.

President Saddam Husayn commented by saying: I am happy to hear you say this with such clarity. I believe that without such clarity and frankness we will never be able to form real convictions and beliefs. When you communicate to Saddam Husayn what Hafiz al-Asad said and vice versa in public, this is the sound approach, and this is how we must behave. For example, what we hope will happen is that when two Arab leaders differ on something, they will hold a public dialogue in the media organs of their two countries. During this dialogue, each one of them will give his opinion on the subject and justify it.

This is also something new. It is something that will save people from vituperations and place facts before the people and the Arab nation. By this I mean the appearance of Hafiz al-Asad and Saddam Husayn on television, each giving his judgement along with a discussion that appears on the screen before the peoples in Iraq and Syria and before the Arab nation. This is a good thing, but not now. If I propose this to Hafiz al-Asad he would tell me that I want the Arab nation to recall some past events. Therefore, I will not propose this. However, if we agree to do this at the Arab League, then this would be a very practical step that would show our appreciation and respect for the sons of the Arab nation.

If we say that differences emerge through the news media between two or more Arab countries, then the first in command officials in both countries should appear on the television of both countries, the same recording shall be taken from them, this recording shall be distributed in a place agreed to by both sides, and both sides shall hold an open dialogue. They have the option either to reach an agreement and consider their differences things of the past, or if differences continue on a basic issue and they decide that the people should know of these differences, then they should let them know so that the Arab nation can settle this issue.

Therefore, I want to say that I am very happy to hear this from you. Yes, President Hafiz al-Asad has said that we support Iran for the following reasons: We support Iran because Iraq attacked Iran and we support Iran because the war will not end given that the religious theory in Iran says that authority must be in the hands of the jurisprudent, and because the superior jurisprudent in Iran is Khomeyni, who earlier said that he is the imam then said no he is the deputy Imam, and because Khomeyni has strong faith in this. So the war will not end. In light of this, what is the solution? The solution is that Saddam Husayn must resign, and if he does not resign, then the Iranian armies must storm Iraq to topple the regime. This was mentioned in a joint statement twice, once in Damascus and again in Tehran by three states, Iran, Libya, and Syria. They declared the war and said that the objective is to topple the regime in Iraq. However, they did not decide the form of government they wanted to establish.

The other thing he said is that we are convinced that Palestine will not be liberated except with Iran's assistance, and therefore, in order to help Iran liberate Palestine, it must occupy Iraq as soon as possible to topple the regime there and consequently go on to liberate Palestine. Are these not the three reasons that you have heard from Damascus?

The Egyptian lawyer said: There is a fourth idea, namely that unity should be achieved between Syria and Iraq, and consequently the war will end.

The president commented on this, saying: Unity between Syria and Iraq under President Hafiz al-Asad? The achievement of true unity under a Syrian, Iraqi, or a Yemeni president is a principled issue for the unionist Arabs. Therefore, I do not argue about this issue in principle. However, the war has already ended, Khomeyni does not occupy Iraq, and Saddam Husayn does not occupy Iran. So, is Saddam Husayn now allowed to say that both Saddam Husayn and Hafiz al-Asad should

resign before the Iraqi and Syrian peoples and conduct democratic elections under the supervision of representatives of all Arabs and for Saddam Husayn and Hafiz al-Asad to count the votes.

Is this permissible and is this more democratic? I would like to say that I will apply this any time Hafiz al-Asad accepts it. If he replies tomorrow, then you will see Saddam Husayn saying to Hafiz al-Asad: Please come and let us take the Arabs as judges at a meeting that will be held either in Damascus, Baghdad, or in Amman if we do not want to meet in the above places. Let us meet in Amman, or in Riyadh to formulate the democratic bases to enable the Syrian and Iraqi people to elect a new president from among their ranks, that is from among the Syrian and Iraqi people, to establish unity between Iraq and Syria. This talk is convincing. However, Hafiz al-Asad is not convinced by it. I do not seek through this to embarrass Hafiz al-Asad or anyone else. All I want is to bring about a logical and rational discussion.

Iraq is an Arab country and Iran is a foreign country, irrespective of its being an Islamic country. Turkey is also an Islamic country and under the name of the Ottoman empire it had ruled all the Arab countries. When the Arabs realized that the cover of religion was no longer sufficient to let others rule them, they liberated themselves from the Ottoman empire. The 1916 Arab revolt took place. Is this not so? Therefore, there is a precedent in Arab history which shows that the cover of religion is not sufficient to permit a foreigner to rule them in a manner that conflicts with their nationalist aspirations. Therefore, Iran is a foreign country and a non-Arab country. We have official borders with it. Iran is ruled by people from Iran. Iran also has never been known throughout its history to have fought, even once, for the liberation of Palestine, whether in the pre-Islamic era or afterward. Iraq, however, has put on record more than once that it had played roles in the liberation of Palestine. It has done so jointly with the Arabs, as has been the case from 1948 to date. The Iraqi Army participated in all the battles which took place on the fronts.

This is what took place in contemporary times. In the far distant past, there are many indications that men from Iraq had left for Palestine to free its inhabitants from an injustice that had befallen them. What is certain then is that under all circumstances Iraq has played a role in the liberation of Palestine.

There are also those who say that the war does not stop because the authority of the jurisprudence belongs to the jurisprudent. If we accept this in Iraq, is it not also necessary to accept it as well in Syria, Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria, Jordan, and elsewhere, not to mention in foreign countries? The Soviet Union may one day say that this person is not a communist, or that he is not a Leninist-Marxist, or that his policy does not please it. Therefore, this person must be replaced, or we will attack that country to change its regime by force. Is this permissible? Therefore, the thing that we take as a rule must be taken by us as such at all times and in every case, and not in one particular case. From this premise, when we decide on the principle that if a foreigner expresses his desire to change an Arab ruler, then we must not remove him, thus allowing the foreigner to decide the type of regime in this or that country. If we allow this to take place, then we would be moving toward perdition as Arabs. In any case, let us suppose that Saddam Husayn accepts this condition set by Hafiz al-Asad. Who can tell that the Iraqis will accept such a thing? Is Iraq a village owned by Saddam Husayn so that he may step down and hand Iraq over to Iran, or to Hafiz al-Asad?.

Another point is that Saddam Husayn is not of those who resign when things become difficult. The Iraqis know this, and that's why they fought. When men offer their blood, they want men to lead them, men who are also ready to offer their own blood.

With respect to another point on who started the war. From the onset of the war, we have been saying that we are ready to task the Muslims, or the Nonaligned Movement to investigate the following incidents. We spoke more than once about these incidents in detail and substantiated them with figures. How did the war start? For their part, they say it started on 22 September while we say it started on 4 September, and even before this date according to international law. We have documents to substantiate what we say. Our brother Hafiz al-Asad did not say to us: Either you let me see these documents, or I will consider you to be the aggressors. If a person wants to justify his actions, he can easily do so. But to what extent will these justifications be acceptable to the people, and how long can they obscure realities? Therefore, for Iran to liberate Palestine, Iraq must be sacrificed to Iran, which will establish whatever system of rule it wishes in it. Afterward, we will have to wait for it to sympathize with us and liberate Palestine for us. I do not know to what extent this logic is convincing. I know you are not convinced by it. However, I am grateful that you have raised this question because this is exactly what Hafiz al-Asad is saying, and that was my answer to it. The other point is exactly as you said. Iraq is not expected to isolate itself. Rather, it is expected to deal with Arab issues. However, in dealing with Arab issues, Iraq does not want to seem—having built its strength through the conflict and through Arab support—as if it wants to interfere in the affairs of other Arabs. Such an action is against our principles and harms the Arabs. We are convinced of the principles we refered to regarding noninterference in internal affairs and I will explain this.

If we continue to interfere in each others' affairs, the general feeling will remain one of distrust, and the issue of interference in internal affairs will be subject to various interpretations. For example, who says Saddam has more right than Hafiz al-Asad or that King Husayn has more right than Al-Mirghani to interfere in others' affairs? It does no harm to reach with our Arab brothers a description of what interference in internal affairs

means, to refer to the Arab League Charter, including respect for human rights, and to say that the mass media in all Arab countries will be free to expose any violations of these principles. Let us just agree in advance on these principles without saying they reflect the positions of either Iraq or Syria. Let us say they are general principles. I believe that if we agree on these principles, including respect for human rights and giving people the freedom to express their opinions toward any violation of the principles of the chrater in any Arab country, this will effect a balance between noninterference in domestic affairs and our human, pan-Arab responsibility toward the violations that may take place in Iraq or any other Arab country.

We have absolute faith in these principles. I add that the Israeli forces' thrust to occupy Lebanon in 1982 coincided with an Iranian offensive against Basra. However, before that, the Iranians announced that they were ready to send an army to confront Israel and defend Lebanon had it not been for the war. Although Iraq rejects this, we announced in an RCC statement that we welcome the Iranian armies' crossing Iraq to defend Lebanon, but at least the war had to stop. Otherwise, the armies would not go to Lebanon. They would declare they were disobeying their orders as soon as they reached Baghdad and would want to occupy it. Therefore, do not expect Iraq to spare any effort for the sake of Palestine and its liberation. Iraq omits no opportunity to expand pan-Arab support for our just, pan-Arab cause, which is the Palestinian cause. This is my comment on the subject. Now you have in hand the arguments of both Iraq and Syria.

The president then commented on remarks by an Arab lawyer that the Arab citizen is not allowed to express his opinion on events and that the regimes negate the Arab mind. The lawyer said lawyers wished Iraq to provide this opportunity had it not been for the war and confronting the religious fanatacism and racist invasion that threatened the Arab nation. He asked what Iraq's next step in this regard will be as the war has ended.

The president leader answered: This is a vital question. I do not exclude Iraq from any gap that might be observed in the political, social, economic, and other fields. Only God is infallible. To be objective, I do not consider the Iraqi system the higher ideal we are seeking. In fact, Iraq so far seems to be a state generally accepted by the Iraqis and the Arabs. However, we are still struggling to reach the best.

Even in Iraq, as men who have principles, we believe that what we have in hand, although it is a source of pride to us, is not the ideal situation that we seek in all economic, social, cultural, and political fields. Perhaps, during our discussion, you forced me to speak about an issue that we did not speak about in the past except from a specific angle. On a previous occasion, during my meetings with Iraqis or Arabs from outside Iraq, I said that we prepared for the postwar stage 2 years before the end of the war. We have also decided how we should deal with the returning POW's, how they should return to their jobs, and how they should cared for. However, care for their families existed during the war, and after they return safely, God willing, they will themselves take care of their families. At any rate, we should provide them with job opportunities. In the economic field, we entered the postwar stage before the end of the war and began to rebuild the state structure.

With respect to the economic side, we started to reorganize the structure of the state even before the war ended. However, there is still one important aspect that we have not yet dealt with as it should be considered within the general concept that we formulated 2 years before the war stopped. This aspect is the expansion of the councils representing the people. There is complete freedom on the level of workers, peasants, students, and women. We brought about a new state that probably does not exist in other Arab countries. We refused to have fewer than two candidates in any election. This is the case even if someone says that only one candidate has come forth.

In this case, we say that elections will not take place. We opened the door for nominations. Before this, the party wanted to choose the candidates. We rejected this. We said that now that all the people have rights and assume responsibilities, which are sometimes less or more than the responsibilities that are assumed by party members, then the door must be opened to all people. To make sure that this will take place, we have stated that more than two candidates must run in any election. Now, if only one person runs in one area, we will not permit it. Is this not the case, Comrade Latif [Nusayyif Jasim]? At least two persons must compete in one area for us to accept the legitimacy of these elections.

Let us take the textiles trade union for example. If one only is nominated to represent the workers, then this is not accepted. At least two must compete. The more who run, the better. This applies to all organizations. By this I mean that the representative base has been expanded in terms of allowing new parties other than the parties that already exist within the [Progressive] National Front to have their say. This means that we will permit the formation of new parties in addition to those already existing. We will also allow them to play their role in society. This means plurality. The system of plurality has been adopted as part of our party's trend with accuracy and after deep thought.

During all that period, we did not announce this matter because in several parts of the world, many started speaking about adopting a system of plurality of parties, and we did not want to appear to be following this trend. We adopted such a course 2 years ago. There are documents and records proving this at the Ba'th Party Regional Command. We discussed this at RCC meetings. We also discussed it during joint meetings with the cabinet.

Perhaps you remember that an amnesty has been granted to all our Kurdish citizens except one for reasons I may mention on the occasion of your presence here. Since you have raised this issue, I announce here before you that all those who were convicted or wanted by justice for political reasons have been granted a general amnesty, whether they are inside or outside Iraq, with the exception of those who worked as agents and spies for Iran and the aggressor Iranian Army. This matter, naturally, must remain outside the framework of the general amnesty. Apart from this, every person who is in prison in Iraq will be released and those who are not in prison will be pardonned. Let us start from the beginning. We will issue the necessary presidential decree. [passage omitted] Thus, I do not say that we respect and care for human rights as we really wish in Iraq. I do not say this because our organs still need to be revised to be in harmony with the postwar stage. This is because the war, which lasted for 8 years, has threatened everything. It threatened sanctities, land, and man. So, I cannot claim, providing that I am morally responsible for what I say before you, that human rights are respected the way I wish and want by the state organs. However, with God's help, we will reach the stage that will satisfy us and you. May God bless you and you are welcome.

A number of the members of the Arab Lawyers Union from Sudan also delivered speeches. Faruq Abu 'Isa said: We were entrusted by the Arab lawyers with extending congratulations on the Iraqi victory, which proved anew that our nation can triumph over its enemies if it is armed with determination and led by an elightened and wise leadership. On behalf of the Arab lawyers, he accorded the president, the people, and the Army a sash as a symbol of pride in his excellency's leadership.

Ahmad al-Khawajah, head of the Arab Lawyers Union and doyen of Egyptian lawyers, stressed that the victory that was achieved is not only for Iraq, but for the entire Arab nation. He said that this victory has surprised the world with great meanings appreciated by lawyers. He said that the leader president seeks peace, because his army is a defensive army, not one of war or aggression.

Mushari al-'Usaymi, doyen of the Kuwaiti lawyers, then spoke, saying: The leader president has embodied the significance of Arabism and its values and the significance of manhood and all its loftiness. He also reviewed the threats, aggressions, and invasions the Arab nation was exposed to and said that history will record with bright letters his excellency's stands and that his excellency has entered history through its widest doors.

Husayn Mujalli, doyen of the Jordanian lawyers, expressed happiness with meeting the leader president. He said that the challanges facing our Arab nation are challanges of existence and not of borders. He said that these challenges threaten our existence. He said that this is a fateful challange. He expressed happiness with the Iraqi Army, and said that it is natural that this victory will anger Israel, Zionism, and Iran.

Yasir 'Amr, member of the Arab Lawyers Union Permanent Bureau and doyen of Palestinian lawyers, pointed out that Iraq's victory is a victory for the Palestine question and the Palestinian people have expressed appreciation for the leader president's stands in favor of the Palestinian people and their revolution.

Muhammad al-Sadiqi, assistant secretary general of the Arab Lawyers Union and head of the Moroccan Lawyers League, extended the Moroccan lawyers' congratulations to the Iraqi people and leadership for achieving victory and repulsing the aggression. The meeting was attended by Latif Nusayyif Jasim, minister of culture and information; Ahmad Husayn, head of the president's office; the president's secretary; and Hani Wuhayyib, the president's secretary for press and information.

Shamir: 'Broad-Based Government' Essential

TA2911155288 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1430 GMT 29 Nov 88

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said today that a broad-based government is a must at this hour, and he does not want it for reasons of comfort. According to him a narrow-based government would have to devote most of its time to mere survival and will not be able to function on the important matters. Today, the prime minister addressed the committee of daily newspaper editors. Our correspondent Natan Gutman has just returned from the meeting and has more details:

Upon arriving at the Bet Sokolov building, Yitzhaq Shamir was greeted by a demonstration of Broadcasting Authority journalists. They were protesting what they call not allowing freedom of speech on television and radio. Shamir did not pay any attention to them. In the annual meeting on the occasion of 29 November, the prime minister also spoke of the coalition negotiations. Shamir made clear: We do not want a unity government just because it is more convenient. In our 4 years of experience, we have had our share of bitterness, but such a government is essential for the state. There are many arguments for a broad-based government, added Shamir, noting that we face difficulties in terms of international relations, defense, and the economy. A narrow-based government would have to devote much effort to survival and would have difficulty functioning, the prime minister said.

He also made clear that a broad-based government would speak in a single voice on political issues. In his speech to the editors' committee, the prime minister referred to the possibility that Yasir 'Arafat will appear before the UN General Assembly in Geneva. According to him there is no reason to fear such a possibility because 'Arafat, who asked for American support, did not get it; therefore, he failed.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew on 29 November at 1500 GMT adds that "on the Who Is a Jew issue, Shamir said that he accepts conversion to Judaism according to halakha. He is willing, however, to work hard for a solution that would be acceptable to all parts of the Jewish people. Shamir referred to the U.S. Jewish delegations arriving here on this issue, saying that they are roaming around Jerusalem and expressing their bitter feelings. This is largely exaggerated, and there is a misunderstanding of the issue. We are all Jews."]

'Rabin Camp' in Labor Party Has 'Slight Edge'

TA3011061588 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 30 Nov 88

[Text] Several hours before today's Labor Bureau meeting, the supporters of negotiations with the Likud enjoy a slight edge over those favoring a broad-based government. Our correspondent Razi Barqay reports that this is the first time in years that the Rabin camp in the Labor Party has been reorganized. Its members have been requested to give unanimous support to the defense minister in his efforts to persuade the Labor to join a broad-based government in order to obtain the defense and treasury portfolios. Shim'on Peres is interested in the foreign ministry portfolio. It is possible that in today's meeting, Mr Peres will announce that he now holds enough votes to create a blocking majority with the left-wing parties, Degel Hatora, and Agudat Yisra'el against a narrow-based Likud government.

Last night, the Council of Sages instructed Agudat Yisra'el leaders to launch negotiations with the Alignment. Two Alignment ministers, Rabin and Shahal, leveled sharp criticism at Mr Peres' talks with the ultraorthodox parties. Minister Peres' office reacted by saying that the talks were private conversations rather than negotiations.

In yesterday's meeting of the Likud ministers, Prime Minister Shamir said that he had learned that a senior Likud minister was the one who had asked the ultraorthodox parties to create a crisis. Mr Shamir said that he obtained this information from Minister Peretz.

Rabin Explains Support for Broad-Based Government

TA3011073888 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 30 Nov 88

[Telephone interview with Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by Shlomo Raz—live]

[Text] [Raz] Good morning, Defense Minister Rabin.

[Rabin] Good morning.

[Raz] Mr Rabin, your confidants told us last night that the resumed meetings between the Alignment and the religious parties are futile maneuvers. Are they indeed futile? Nevertheless, the party must have achieved something.

[Rabin] I think that activities aimed at forming a narrow-based government headed by the Alignment and based on the ultraorthodox parties do not stand any chance whatsoever, and they should not be pursued. We have already been through negotiations with the ultraorthodox parties, and we came out quite humiliated. We, the Alignment ministers team, were willing to recommend the amendment to the Who Is a Jew law, subject to the approval of the Party Bureau, in order to arrive at such a government. Today all of us realize that agreeing to any change of that law, whether directly or indirectly, is out of the question.

Therefore, I believe that that possibility no longer exists. Any attempt to start games with the ultraorthodox parties, to make them believe that they can obtain from us either an agreement to vote for the amendment to the law or freedom of voting to the party members, will

cause serious damage to the country, because it will eventually raise the price that the ultraorthodox parties will exact from the Likud. This will result in a terrible country, and our errors will be partly responsible for that situation.

[Raz] Mr Rabin, did you voice this criticism to Shim'on Peres?

[Rabin] I voice my opinions to whomever I wish. I think this issue has already been discussed in the Sarenu forum [of Alignment ministers] and I understood that most of the ministers are against any concession whatsoever on the issue of Who Is a Jew, without regard to the impact this may have on the ultraorthodox parties.

[Raz] I would like to understand your present stand: What you now regard as the best option is an Alignment-Likud government, with the possibility that the religious and small parties join it if they so wish.

[Rabin] If immediately after the elections, the two major parties had been able to form a government based exclusively on the Alignment and the Likud, without the religious parties, it would have been possible to pursue several goals, such as electoral reform. That would have allowed the nation to make decisions without undue pressures. What has been attempted now is starting processes after the elections, as if no elections have taken place. Such a government was not possible after the elections and is not possible now, mainly because of the lack of trust—and it is quite justified—between the two major parties.

Therefore, in view of our inability to form a narrow-based government led by us—its price would be horrendous, and I doubt whether it can be achieved, in any event—there are now two options open to us: either go into opposition, or try to establish—or at least launch negotiations for—a broad-based government centered around the two major parties. I am in favor of trying to achieve such negotiations, with the approval of the party bureau, of course. I think that the answers we received to the questions we had posed to the Likud are a sufficient basis for launching negotiations. It is inconceivable for them to prevent us from making an attempt to establish a dialogue with the Likud, or at least probing this possibility. The result of this process will have to be approved again by the party bureau and central committee, but the central committee, and not the bureau, will decide.

[Raz] Thank you very much, Mr Defense Minister.

Agudat Yisra'el Supports Peres as Prime Minister

TA3011090988 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0830 GMT 30 Nov 88

[Text] Another development in the coalition negotiations: Agudat Yisra'el leaders informed the Alignment this morning that they support Shim'on Peres as their candidate for prime minister for a full 4-year term.

Some Alignment sources believe that this announcement creates a new political situation, in which it may be inadvisable for the Labor Bureau to adopt a resolution opening negotiations with the Likud.

This was just reported by our party affairs correspondent Yaron Deqel.

Shamir Promises To Honor Commitments to SHAS

TA3011115088 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 30 Nov 88

[Report from the Prime Minister's Office by Yaron Kulas]

[Text] Only 3 or 4 minutes ago Minister Yitzhaq Peretz left the prime minister's bureau. He told us that SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] has rescinded its demand that the Likud sign a coalition agreement at once. At the meeting, the prime minister told SHAS leaders that all the commitments the Likud had undertaken toward SHAS remain valid. He said that even if a broad-based government is formed, the Likud does not intend to renege on any of its commitments.

Minister Peretz said: All the doubts we had have been erased. We accept the prime minister's commitment, we believe in it, and we remain with the Likud. The crisis, or the mini-crisis, that state of nervousness which characterized the Likud-SHAS relations in the past hours, has disappeared. SHAS removes its demand from the agenda, it remains with the Likud, and it duly notes the prime minister's promise that all the commitments will be kept even if a broad-based government with the Alignment is formed.

Shamir Sees 'Signs' Arabs Ready for Peace Talks

TA3011101188 Tel Aviv THE NATION in English 30 Nov p 1a

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzaq Shamir said yesterday he saw signs that Arab states were ready to enter direct peace talks once he formed a national unity government with the Labor party. But Shamir, in remarks to the Israel Editors Committee, said he could not elaborate because a disclosure would endanger peace prospects.

Shamir said he offered Labor a key role in the government because the state's many political, economic and security problems demanded a broad government with wide Knesset support. Labor will decide today whether to negotiate on forming another coalition. I very much hope that when it is clear to our neighbors there is a government in Israel that speaks with one voice, ready for direct negotiations, they will take an interest. I have signs of it already, he said.

Asked to explain the signs, Shamir said, "...if the questioner will please excuse me, I can't tell him what these signs are because the moment I answer his question, these signs will disappear into thin air." Shamir hailed

the U.S. decision to bar Yasir 'Arafat from entering New York to address the U.N. General Assembly, accusing the PLO of portraying itself as a peace-seeker while aiming always at Israel's destruction.

Legal Adviser Sums Up Details of Tabah Agreement

TA3011095988 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 30 Nov 88

[Report by Rome-based correspondent Yosi Bar]

[Text] In the presence of two U.S. State Department witnesses, Egypt and Israel yesterday signed the Tabah arbitration implementation agreement. The event took place at the Multinational Force headquarters. Foreign Ministry Legal Adviser Robi [Robert] Sabel summed up the main points of the agreement.

[Begin Sabel recording] The parties will carry out the arbitration decision by erecting new border markers at spots specified by the arbitrators. We agreed that this will be done by Egyptian Army and IDF liaison units and that the task will be completed within 60 days. The second operational point of the agreement pertains to the rest of the pending issues. It was agreed that the parties will attempt to reach an understanding on all the remaining controversial issues within 60 days. [end recording]

Robi Sabel believes that the agreement is positive in that it will diminish the friction between Egypt and Israel. The agreement will also underline both sides' commitment to the peace treaty and to the arbitration decision. Sabel says that the agreement sets down the implementation deadlines.

Egyptian Ambassador Nabil al-'Arabi also said that he is satisfied. He remarked, however, that he hopes the atmosphere of goodwill will continue and that we will be able to conclude this matter.

Settlers Plan State Based on Kahane Article

TA2911153888 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 29 Nov 88 p 9

[Report by Mazal Mu'alem]

[Text] "The chain of tragic events in the territories in the course of the past year, which peaked in the declaration of Palestinian independence in Algiers, has led us to the clear conclusion that in light of the government's helplessness we must find our own solutions," say the first members of the Council of Free Judaea. This council was created in order to form an independent Jewish entity in the territories in the event of an Israeli withdrawal.

They plan to mold the character of the Council of Free Judaea on an article published by Rabbi Kahane 4 years ago. Writing about the possibility of autonomy in the territories, Kahane said that at that point there would be a forceful takeover by armed Jews who would form a new state. "The state that will arise will be of a Jewish nature and will have learned from the mistakes made by the State of Israel in its beginning."

According to them, the reasons for forming this group are the strengthening of the PLO, the deteriorating safety of the Jewish residents of Judaea and Samaria, and the increasing number of terrorist acts. So far the council consists of several dozen members, including Barukh Marzel, spokesman of Kakh; Shmu'el Ben-Yishay, a Qiryat Arba' Council member; and Rabbi Mar'el Ben-Horin, who is a major in the paratroopers. Shmu'el Ben-Yishay claims that such a situation could definitely occur, hence the haste in setting up the group.

"Our target is not the State of Israel nor the Army, but the moment they leave the territories in question we, rather than the PLO, will take their place. If necessary, we will fight the PLO. We have the capability as far as weapons are concerned, and our men have military training," states Barukh Marzel. "This is no revolt against the State of Israel; this is a contingency plan in case of a possible abandonment and betrayal by Israel. Yamit was evacuated, but there will be no evacuation here. We are prepared to die if necessary."

Mitzna': IDF Won't Permit Settlers' Reprisals

TA2811201588 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 28 Nov 88

[Excerpts] Major General 'Amram Mitzna', commander of the Central Command, said today that the IDF would not permit Jewish residents in the territories to organize and take reprisal and punitive actions. [passage omitted]

[Begin recording] [Beni Liss] Can we have a situation where residents will not take the law into their own hands?

[Mitzna'] I very much hope so. I hope that it will not be just that we control them, but that they understand after the anger passes that such a situation is not permissable in a country run by law, and that such action would harm those who do the harm. [passage omitted]

It is hard to talk about statistics this afternoon, but we are managing to cope with the situation in most places most of the time, and we are able to provide security at a reasonable level. When I say at a reasonable level I mean that we will continue to deal with each individual stoning incident. One stone is also too much from our point of view, but it is a very complex situation. [end recording]

Fatah, PFLP Rift Surfacing in Territories

TA2711193288 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 27 Nov 88

[Text] In the wake of the PNC resolutions, a rift has surfaced in the territories between Fatah supporters and the left-wing people in George Habash's PFLP. The differences of opinion reached the point of violence over the weekend. Our correspondent in the territories Arye Gus reports:

Since the PNC's recognition of sorts of UN Resolution 242, tension in the territories between the Islamic Resistance Movement [Hamas] and the PLO has increased. The Hamas views the PNC and its resolutions as a serious betrayal and a concession of parts of Falastin which, according to this movement, is a Muslim holy land. Nevertheless, disagreements are increasing within the PLO camp itself, between the Fatah and George Habash's PFLP, which were able to demonstrate a united front for a short while at the PNC session in Algiers. These disagreements turned into an exchange of blows among youths in the Nabulus casbah yesterday and the previous day. Criticism of the PNC resolutions is growing among Rejectionist Front followers in the territories.

PFLP supporters now have to explain, which is what they did in the written announcements distributed in recent days, that they were indeed party to the PNC session in Algiers, but that they did their best to prevent recognition of Resolution 242 and that this decision is not binding on them. At any event, this is what was stated in a pamphlet issued a few days ago. Against this background of Fatah's efforts to present itself as an organization which has chosen to follow the political path, PFLP people are repeating the old positions: support for armed struggle, adherence to previous PNC decisions, and an escalation of the uprising.

Another aspect of this rift is the two contradictory leaflets, both numbered 29, which were disseminated last week. Both are signed by the Unified National Command of the Uprising, but one supports Resolution 242, and the other, probably formulated by the left-wing elements, condemns it. Fatah supporters in their leaflet No 29 are calling for a strike to be staged tomorrow. The PFLP people, like the Hamas, are calling for a strike the day after tomorrow, on 29 November [the day of the UN resolution on the partition of Eretz Yisra'el]. It will be interesting to see who will strike tomorrow and where they will strike.

Left-Wing Parties To Attend Convention With PLO

TA3011062488 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 30 Nov 88

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Our correspondent Razi Barqay reports that a delegation from Israeli left-wing parties is due to participate in the international peace convention in Prague, alongside the PLO. After learning of the PLO participation, some of the Labor Party delegates, including Abba Eban and Hayim Tzadoq, decided not to attend. Those planning to leave for Prague include members of MAPAM, Citizens Rights Movement, and HADASH [Democratic Front for Peace and Equality].

IDF 'Very Satisfied' With Egypt's Border Control

TA3011102888 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 30 Nov p 10

[Report by the defense correspondent Kenneth Kaplan]

[Excerpt] The IDF is "very satisfied" with Egypt's recent efforts to prevent border infiltrations by smugglers and terrorists from its territory. According to senior military sources who briefed defence reporters this week during a tour of the Egyptian border, local Egyptian commanders have responded favourably and quickly to Israeli recommendations concerning their border patrol routines. The number of infiltrations from Egypt has fallen considerably in the past year, the sources said.

"It is a national goal of the highest order to maintain peace along this border," OC [commanding officer] Southern Command Yitzaq Mordekhay told reporters at a press conference. "The regime in Egypt is willing and able to maintain the peace... Egypt has no interest in waging war against Israel," he said. Mordekhay pointed out that the potential for instability in Egypt is high, given the delicate economic and social conditions there. However, the signs are that in the near future at least the regime is capable of maintaining internal order and peace with Israel.

It is in Israel's interest, therefore, to maintain all the agreements with that country and to avoid inflicting any kind of damage, because instability there would only increase the dangers to Israel in the long term. A number of terrorist incidents in the Rafi'ah area a year ago and the terrorist infiltration and hijacking last spring of a busload of workers from the Dimona nuclear research facility spurred Egypt to accelerate the improvements it was making in its border infrastructure. Among these were the addition of lighting along stretches of the border, a paved patrol road which will eventually extend from Rafah Nizana, better fences, and the relocation of some observation posts to higher ground. [passage omitted]

IDF Kills 'Terrorist' in South Lebanon

TA3011085688 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0830 GMT 30 Nov 88

[Text] In a clash early this morning, an IDF unit killed a terrorist east of the village of Bra'shit in the central section of southern Lebanon. Our forces suffered no casualties. Another terrorist managed to escape. Our correspondent in the north Menahem Horowitz reports that the terrorist was shot by NAHAL [Pioneering Fighting Youth] troops during routine security activities in the area. Two Kalashnikov rifles, an RPG, hand grenades, and a battle jacket were found in the possession of the two terrorists. Major General Yosi Peled, Northern Command commander, debriefed the NAHAL soldiers this morning and praised them for the operation.

IDF's Shomron Expects Quiet in Territories

TA3011091488 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 30 Nov 88

[Interview With Lieutenant General Dan Shomron, chief of the general staff, by military correspondent Karmela Menashe, time and place not given—recorded]

[Menashe] Yesterday, 29 November, the anniversary of the UN partition resolution, the IDF deployed reinforced troops throughout the territories. Lieutenant General Dan Shomron, the chief of staff, said that this was one of the quietest days in the territories.

[Shomron] Compared to the other 29 November events in past years, yesterday was perhaps the quietest of all.

[Menashe] Does this mean that no demonstrations or disturbances took place?

[Shomron] None. Well, perhaps a few relatively minor incidents. Compared to previous anniversaries of the partition resolution, yesterday was the quietest of all.

[Menashe] You have reinforced the troops. Was it also in anticipation of 29 November?

[Shomron] That, and other days as well. As I have already pointed out, we are at a turning point. There is a good chance that quiet will now be restored in the territories. When I say quiet, I do not mean a situation in which no stone or firebomb is thrown anywhere. These incidents will continue perhaps, but I hope we will see an end to demonstrations, rallies, and various other outbursts.

Soldiers Allowed To Fire Plastic Bullets at Night

TA3011074788 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 30 Nov 88

[Text] A new regulation will allow IDF soldiers to fire plastic bullets at rioters in the territories at night. Our correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that the IDF has so far avoided firing in the dark which, according to military sources, was a situation that rioters used to their advantage.

To ensure that even in the dark rioters are hit in the legs only, sights have been mounted on the guns of the officers authorized to fire plastic bullets.

IDF Probes Alleged 'Abuses' by Troops in W. Bank

TA2911123188 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 29 Nov 88 p 2

[Report by Joel Greenberg]

[Text] Soldiers at the West Bank village of Al-Ram last week forced a busload of passengers to stone and burn a Palestinian flag, and ordered them to sing while it was in flames, one passenger claimed yesterday. They were beaten, several were ordered onto the roof of the bus, and one was compelled to jump off, according to an account by Isma'il Bisharat, 22, of Jaba'. The IDF is checking Bisharat's report, which included the following details: Soldiers in Al-Ram stopped an Arab-owned bus travelling from Jaba' to Jerusalem on Thursday and ordered passengers down to remove a Palestinian flag hanging on a power line. The soldiers threatened to shoot if the passengers did not get off the bus, and ordered the group to throw stones at the flag to knock it down.

Soldiers beat a passenger who said he was 15 years old, after charging that he was lying about his age and should have been carrying an ID card. Another youth with a leg cast was beaten on the broken limb when he protested that he could not remove the flag because of the fracture. Bisharat claimed that he was kicked in the stomach and beaten on the head after he told soldiers he needed a long pole to take down the flag. Soldiers ordered the bus driver to park under the banner, and told a youth to climb onto the roof of the vehicle and take down the flag. A group of youths was also ordered onto the roof. When the flag was removed and the group prepared to climb down, soldiers compelled one youth to jump off the bus to set the flag alight, and as it burned, spit on it. They ordered passengers to sing. The troops then released the passengers after ordering them to clear the road of stones they had been forced to hurl at the flag.

The incident was the second report this week of alleged abuses by soldiers in areas north of Jerusalem. A resident of the new Bayt Hanina neighbourhood told THE JERUSALEM POST that on November 18, six paratroopers, led by an officer, clubbed and beat him after ordering him to paint over nationalist graffiti. When the man asked the officer to identify himself so he could lodge a complaint, the officer refused. On Sunday, the officer led a house-to-house search for the man, entering homes without a warrant and warning residents that he would "settle accounts" with him, according to the report. The officer told residents that he would continue searching for the man, who has been smuggled out of the neighbourhood by worried relatives. The case was reported to the IDF deputy judge-advocate general in the West Bank by the Association for Civil Rights in Israel.

[Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew on 29 November in a report on page two by military correspondent Avi Bnayahu adds: "Following complaints of Arabs regarding injuries inflicted by soldiers on shepherds last week, the IDF has conducted an investigation whose findings invalidate the charges. The medical examination conducted on three youths who had complained of burns shows that all three had either played with or handled flammable substances which caused their hand and face injuries. Yesterday, the IDF spokesman pointed out that the Army does not use any flammable substances in its activities in the territories."]

Settler Convicted of Killing Arab Shepherd

TA3011115388 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 30 Nov 88

[Text] The District Court in Jerusalem this morning found Yisra'el Ze'ev guilty of manslaughter for shooting an Arab shepherd, Jum'a 'Abd al-Awad, near the settlement of Shilo 6 months ago. During the incident Ze'ev also injured another shepherd. The sentence will be handed down next week.

Further on Curfews, Disturbances in Territories

Nabulus Declared 'Closed'

TA2911163388 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 29 Nov 88

[Text] In Judaea and Samaria today, four Arab residents were wounded by IDF gunfire during clashes with soldiers. In the Gaza Strip a 15-year-old youth was severely wounded. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that two men were wounded in a stone-throwing incident in the Nabulus casbah. Two others were injured during clashes with IDF soldiers operating in the village of Tammun.

The city of Nabulus was declared a closed military zone. Curfews remain in affect in Tulkarm and Qalqilyah. All refugee camps and some neighborhoods and villages are under curfew in the Gaza Strip.

A general strike was staged today in the territories following calls by George Habash's PFLP and the Islamic Resistance Movement. These organizations oppose the declaration of the Palestinian independence in Algiers based on the UN partition resolution. Fatah supporters attempted to prevent the strike, but it was fully observed in most of the Arab locations.

Firebomb Thrown at Bus

TA2911200088 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 29 Nov 88

[Text] A firebomb was thrown this evening at an Egged bus near the village of Bayt Immar south of Hebron. The bomb hit the side of the bus and ignited on the road. There were no casualties and no damage was caused.

Curfews 'Eased' in Gaza Strip

TA3011083388 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 30 Nov 88

[Text] The IDF has eased the curfews in the Gaza Strip area. The curfews imposed yesterday on most of the refugee camps have been lifted, and only remain in effect in the Jabalyah, Al-Shati', and Al-Nusayrat refugee camps, in the village of Bayt Hanun, and in one Rafah neighborhood.

Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that few customers can be seen in shops in the Gaza Strip this morning, although laborers left for jobs in Israel.

Locations in Judaea and Samaria where curfews are imposed today include Qalqilyah, Tulkarm, and a few small villages.

UNRWA Reports Record Casualty Toll in Gaza

TA3011101788 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 30 Nov p 12

[Report by Joel Greenberg]

[Text] Figures obtained yesterday from UNRWA show that a record number of Palestinian casualties have been reported in the Gaza Strip so far this month—the highest toll in a single month since the start of the uprising. Official reports, on the contrary, show that violent protests in the territories declined sharply in November.

According to UNRWA, 250 Palestinians were shot in the Gaza Strip from the beginning of November until Monday, including four who were killed. During November 15-27, 114 people were shot, 304 required treatment for beatings, 48 were treated for rubber-bullet wounds and 31 for tear-gas injuries.

The figures were compiled from registers kept at UNRWA clinics throughout the Gaza Strip.

UNRWA figures show a total of 309 Palestinians killed since the start of the uprising: 270 by army gunfire, 15 by Israeli civilians, 12 by beatings and 12 by tear-gas, most of them babies.

Official IDF statistics list 230 Palestinians killed by the security forces from December 9 to November 22. Eight Israelis, including two soldiers, have been killed during the period.

King Husayn Leaves for Sanaa, Cairo 29 Nov
JN2911122288 Amman Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 29 Nov 88

[Text] His majesty the king today headed for Sanaa and Cairo on working visits to North Yemen and Egypt. His majesty's talks with North Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and Egyptian President Husni Mubarak will deal with efforts on the international level to overcome the challenges facing the Arab nation.

His majesty was seen off at the airport by his royal highness the crown prince, Prince 'Abdallah ibn Husayn, senior civic and military officials, as well as the North Yemeni charge d'affaires and the Egyptian ambassador in Amman. His royal highness the crown prince was sworn in earlier as regent during his majesty's absence abroad.

His majesty is accompanied on the visits by the Prime Minister Mr Zayd al-Rifa'i and the Royal Court chief, Mr Marwan al-Qasim.

King Sends Message to Palestinian Rights Committee
JN2911212488 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 29 Nov 88

["Text of message addressed by His Majesty King Husayn to the chairwoman of the UN Committee on the Palestinian People's Exercise of Their Inalienable Rights on the occasion of the international day of solidarity with the Palestinian people read during the committee's celebrations in New York this afternoon"]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Her Excellency the Chairwoman of the UN Committee on the Palestinian People's Exercise of Their Inalienable Rights:

It pleases me while you are marking the day of solidarity with the Palestinian people to extend to you the warmest greetings and greatest appreciation for your persistent efforts in defense of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people who have experienced forms of injustice and wrongdoing unprecedented in contemporary history caused by the continuation of the Israeli occupation of their territories.

These continuous efforts of yours are important positive contributions toward ending the suffering being experienced by this people to enable them to exercise their inalienable rights, and consequently to bring about a just and durable peace in the Middle East region.

The United Nations' fixing this date, 29 November, every year as an international occasion for marking the day of solidarity with the Palestinian people is living evidence of the justice of the Palestinian cause and proof of the growing world conviction that the basis of Middle East peace lies in doing this people justice. We hope that this world celebration will be a cause prompting the entire international community to intensify and continue the efforts to implement the principles of right, freedom, and equality as regards this people who have long been waiting to see this happen.

Any endeavor exerted in this direction will be a service rendered to the issue of world peace and the United Nations' mission. At a time when the world conscience has begun to awaken as regards the inevitability of applying the values of right, justice, and equality and also regarding the need to bring about peace in all world regions, we hope that this interest will spread to include the Palestinian people whose cause is considered the crux of the ongoing Middle East conflict and also of the consequent absence of peace in this region.

The commitment of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan toward the Palestinian cause since the emergence of that cause is a principled commitment dictated by our pan-Arab and national duties. Besides, our interaction with this cause and the direct impact it has had upon us came about as a result of our distinguished relationship with Palestine—land and people—a relationship based on the historic unionist experience, geographic proximity, demographic merging, cultural interaction, economic integration, and common destiny.

We in Jordan have never hesitated to shoulder our grave historical responsibilities created by this commitment and this relationship. As the Palestinian cause has been the pivot of my family's interests since the beginning of this century, and as my family has offered sacrifices and great things to help it triumph, this cause has remained the main preoccupation for my person. For us, the Palestinian cause is a trust that we work to keep with the maximum power of right available to us. To help it triumph, we are carrying a message to the entire world; and this is the message of justice and peace.

For all this, we have faced the tragedy of the Israeli occupation with all the dimensions and repercussions entailed in this tragedy. We have also continued to support the Palestinian people, be they those who remained steadfast on their land or those who were destined to leave their homeland. Jordan's preoccupation with the Palestinian cause and its interaction with this cause has begun since the emergence of that cause. Hence, it sacrificed a lot to make this cause triumph. Furthermore, Jordan has devoted its efforts and capabilities to serve this cause. Moreover, Jordan has had firsthand daily experience of its developments and events, day by day, and event by event. Jordan's stand in this regard has remained unchanged.

In April 1950, Jordan responded to the wish of the Palestinian people's representatives to establish unity with Jordan. That unity was a model of the constitutional unity that takes place voluntarily. That unity stipulated adherence to the Palestinian people's historical rights and maintenance of Palestinian rights in any

final settlement conforming with international legitimacy. That unity also came as an outcome of Jordan's close connection with the Palestine question and its firm commitment to it. It was also a reason for bolstering that connection and affirming that commitment.

Since Israel's occupation of the West bank and Gaza Strip in June 1967, we have been committed to a firm policy represented in supporting the steadfastness of our Palestinian brothers in the occupied territories to the extent permitted by the occupation circumstances, and in exerting persevering efforts to terminate the Israeli occupation of the Arab territories by seeking a just and comprehensive peaceful settlement based on international legality as embodied in the UN resolutions, particularly the Security Council Resolutions No 242 and 338.

Jordan has constantly been eager to match its efforts with the Palestinian aspirations and to see that its capabilities are channelled into the service of the Palestinian interest. Within this framework, we have continuously responded to our brothers under the Israeli occupation, considering them part of us. The bonds of blood, joint experience, and common destiny link them with us. They are the side that is suffering daily from that occupation and enduring its grave consequences and inhuman practices. At the same time, we were eager to support the PLO, the Palestinian people's sole legitimate representative, and to coordinate with it in order to facilitate its political work and secure its participation as a basic party in any final settlement of the Palestine question that is consistent with international legality.

Our recent decision to dismantle the legal and administrative relationship with the West Bank came in response to the PLO's wish and in compliance with the Arab trend to fully project the Palestinian identity in every part or activity related to the Palestine question and its developments. This decision does not at all mean that Jordan will relinquish its pan-Arab duty toward the Palestine question or its basic role in the Arab-Israeli conflict. This decision came as a qualitative contribution to the Palestinian people's struggle at this decisive stage of their continuous struggle. Jordan will continue its support for the Palestinian people to the best of its ability until the Palestinian struggle attains its goals and these people can exercise their inalienable rights on their soil.

From this premise, we blessed the Palestinian people's uprising against the Israeli occupation right from the beginning. This uprising came as a spontaneous reaction to the continuation of the Israeli occupation and reflected the Palestinian people's cohesion, adherence to right, and determination to continue the struggle until they regain their usurped rights. We in Jordan extended further material and moral aid to help this uprising undertake its historic mission.

In continuation of this Jordanian policy, we supported all the resolutions adopted by the PNC during its recent session in Algiers and recognized the declared Palestinian state. We see in the recent Palestinian representatives' acceptance in Algiers of Security Council Resolution No 242 as a basis for a peaceful settlement a major qualitative step toward the attainment of peace in the Middle East. It constitutes a sound movement toward putting the peace efforts in sound perspective in order to reach a just, lasting, and comprehensive peace that guarantees the rights of all parties to the conflict, that ensures security and stability in the region, and that provides reassurance to its peoples.

In our opinion, the PLO has, through the recent PNC resolutions, given what was requested of it and has participated in pushing the situation ahead. The world should now respond to the PLO's move and work for holding an international Middle East peace conference. We in Jordan, in our capacity as a principal party to the Arab-Israeli conflict and a basic partner in the peace process, will continue our efforts to hold this conference ont which we have succeeded in gaining an international unanimity. This conference is considered the appropriate method to reach a comprehensive, just, and lasting peaceful settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict and to solve all aspects of the Palestine question.

While looking forward to your committee's continuous support for this effort, we wish your committee success in its noble mission and hope that the international community will be able to continue and bolster its efforts in this direction so that the peace for which the region's states are waiting will be established and so that the reassurance which is desired by their nations will prevail.

God's peace and blessing be upon you.

Amal-Hizballah Fighting in Suburb, W. Beirut

NC2911122188 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 29 Nov 88

[Text] According to a report we received a short while ago, Amal and Hizballah gunmen are fighting again in the Al-Khandaq al-Ghamiq area of West Beirut. Heavy-caliber machineguns are being used. Security reports attribute the renewal of the clashes to the fact that certain Amal members are present at the Syrian roadblocks which were erected today and are harassing Hizballah members. In another development, fighting is raging between Amal and Hizballah gunmen in the vicinity of the Burj al-Barajinah roundabout in the southern suburb.

Amal Denies Resumption of Fighting in W. Beirut

NC2911132588 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 29 Nov 88

[Text] There was a security setback at the Burj al-Barajinah traffic circle this afternoon. An Amal security source said that Hizballah gunmen fired at the Amal command building in the area and that the building later came under fire from various directions. The Syrian Arab forces intervened immediately to end this setback. It has been learned that the situation there is calming down. An Amal information source has denied reports by private media that clashes took place in the Al-Khandiq al-Ghamiq area. The source emphasized that the situation is quiet there.

Shams al-Din on Hizballah, Amal Security Role

NC2911124988 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 29 Nov 88

[Text] His Eminence Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din, deputy chairman of the Higher Islamic Shi'ite Council, today received a delegation comprising Ba'labakk Mufti Shaykh Khalil Shuqayr and a number of the area's key figures and dignitaries. The delegation expressed denunciation of the internecine fighting between the Amal Movement and Hizballah.

Addressing the delegation, Shams al-Din said: Major events have taken place between the Amal Movement and Hizballah, including killings, kidnappings, and destruction, which are unjustified in Islamic law, ethics, and politics. He reiterated his call that the Hizballah and Amal militias be disarmed and that their alleged security role in the southern suburb and West Beirut be revoked. He called for this role to be entrusted to the Syrian forces, who enjoy our confidence and whom we have chosen. Shams al-Din said that the internal security forces or the Lebanese Army should help the Syrian forces as appropriate.

However, he added: We do not want our call for the disarming of Hizballah and the Amal Movement to be misinterpreted or distorted. What we mean is that the militias should not play a security role and that both sides should stop lying in wait for each other. They should stop harming the people and respect the security of the people, order, and regulations. His eminence emphasized that the Syrian security plan in Beirut should be maintained. He added: I was shocked by the collapse of the security situation in Beirut. He called for a strict implementation of the security plan in the southern suburb.

Shams al-Din: Solution To Be Found in Iran

NC2911174088 Paris AFP in English 1728 GMT 29 Nov 88

[Excerpts] Beirut, Nov 28 (AFP)—The hostage issue is partly to blame for the breach in Syria's security plan and the outbreak of inter-Shi'ite fighting here, the vice president of the Shi'ite community said on Tuesday. "I can't deny that Syria is concerned with the hostage issue, we all are. That explains the Syrian actions," Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din told AGENCY FRANCE-PRESSE. The outbreak of violence between the Syrian-backed Amal militia and the pro-Iranian Hizballah organization may have resulted in Syria's reluctance to impose its security plan earlier, he said. About 15 Western hostages are believed held in Lebanon by organizations whose leanings are close to the pro-Iranian fundamentalists.

The Syrian troops were only deployed in force in West Beirut on the fourth day of the clashes and stayed clear of the southern suburbs were the hostages are believed held, correspondents here said. "The (southern) suburb suffers from security laxity, which allows a group to undertake actions leading to complaints by the population," Shaykh Shams al-Din said, in a veiled reference to Hizballah. The clashes could easily resume in the absence of a political solution, which is to be found in Iran, Shaykh Shams al-Din said, adding that he would travel to Tehran on Friday for a meeting with Iran's spiritual leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni. [passage omitted]

Asked to comment on Tehran-Damascus ties and Syria's attitude toward Hizballah, Shaykh Shams al-Din said that Syria had an effective role to play in the region which transcended its relations with Hizballah. He added that although Syria was "surprised at what happened", it nevertheless contained the violence without undermining its credibility in Lebanon. [passage omitted]

Phalangist Party Leader Sa'adah Interviewed

PM2911143888 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 25 Nov 88 pp 21-22

[Interview with Phalangist Party leader Dr George Sa'adah by William Dahir; place, date not given]

[Excerpts] AL-HAWADITH: There is a general impression within Lebanese circles that the situation is very bad and worsening by the day. A sizeable proportion of citizens believe that the ball is now in the court of the eastern side [of Beirut], which is now under siege, following the measures taken recently in the western area. The question now is: Would the country not have been spared this situation had the eastern area sympathized or dealt positively with the Syrian-U.S. agreement?

Sa'adah: It is strange to always say that the ball is in the eastern area's court. I do not understand what is meant: Is the eastern area obliged to accept whatever is proposed to it? If it had been possible to submit to any solution imposed on

us, the incidents would have ended long ago—even before the Syrian-U.S. agreement. We are opposed not to certain individuals but, rather, to the way they have tried to impose a solution. In response to Lebanon's interest, Maronite and Christian deputies met in Bkirki and displayed great moderation and openness. They only opposed the implementation of the agreement. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: Are you trying to say that Washington and Damascus do not want the presidential elections to be held?

Sa'adah: From the way the proposal was raised and from the report of His Eminence Patriarch [Sufayr] on his meeting with Richard Murphy and his team, it was clear that those who drew up the agreement knew in advance that the elections would not be held!

AL-HAWADITH: Hampering the elections has led to duplication in terms of institutions. Does this lie within the context of pressure being exerted on the eastern area, or is what has happened the latest episode in the perpetuation of partition?

Sa'adah: Anyone who thinks that exerting more pressures on us would make us surrender would be deluding himself and must revise his calculations. We have been under various forms of pressure since the events began in Lebanon, but nothing has been achieved with regard to a solution to the crisis, which can only be resolved through understanding and dialogue. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: But 'Awn's military government still has not made any headway, either internationally or regionally, or even locally. It is preoccupied with matters of secondary importance. How would you comment on this?

Sa'adah: I do now view matters according to the government's effectiveness or decisions. I view matters on a purely constitutional and legal basis. The 'Awn government is both constitutional and legitimate. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: Nevertheless General 'Awn's government in fact seems very restricted geographically, politically, and in nearly all other fields.

Sa'adah: The other government is restricted in the same way. Besides, it is not a constitutional government. At least the 'Awn government is a constitutional and legitimate government.

AL-HAWADITH: Will presidential elections be held in the future?

Sa'adah: Of course. We will do the impossible to help the constitutional authorities return to their work. We must work to elect a new president of the Republic and a new Chamber of Deputies speaker, because if the presidential elections were to be postponed indefinitely, Lebanon's fate would distress honest Lebanese citizens. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: Why do you not hold a dialogue with Syria?

AL-HAWADITH: Are we to understand that you are calling on Syria to hold a dialogue with [Lebanese Forces leader] Dr Samir Ja'ja'?

Sa'adah: With all factions. Syria's mistake was that it used to talk to one faction to the exclusion of the other—even within the eastern area—just to eliminate the other faction. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: In 1976, when the Christians were in danger, you personally went to Damascus as a Phalangist Party representative and asked the Syrians to enter Lebanon. But today the Phalangists seem to have adopted a different position. What made you change your position and turn your relationship into estrangement and probably strong hostility?

Sa'adah: When I went to Al-Sham [Syria] with [Lebanese Forces Deputy Commander] Karim Paqraduni, I represented both the Phalangists and the [Lebanese] Front, and it was discussed with President Sulayman Franjiyah. I did not go to ask the Syrians to enter Lebanon and salvage it. They were already in Bhamdun. There is no strong hostility between us and Syria or anybody else. We are hostile to those who are hostile to us. We extend a hand of friendship to those who are friendly toward us. When Syria was friendly toward us, we proffered it our outstretched hand for the sake of cooperation and dialogue. We are still ready, despite all that has happened, to hold a dialogue with Syria, if such a dialogue is to salvage Lebanon.

AL-HAWADITH: There is no independence without liberation. There are many armies on Lebanese territory. It is known that the eastern area team has recently raised the slogan "Lebanon's liberation." But the road is blocked politically and mobilization is taking place everywhere. Everyone is expecting an explosion: either in the direction of liberation or an invasion. Is there actual readiness for liberation?

Sa'adah: Why do we always talk about explosion, destruction, and ruin? Liberation can be achieved by various methods, including dialogue and understanding. First, we raise the following slogan: Lebanon and the Lebanese must be left to live in peace and security and helped to rid themselves of the crises they have long experienced. On this basis, we are for liberating Lebanon from the foreign forces now on its territory. This is a right of which we are not, and will not be, ashamed. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: Are you against the blocs policy?

Sa'adah: Of course we are against the blocs policy. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: But in practice you are involving yourself in one Arab bloc against another.

Sa'adah: Why is it that when some Lebanese cooperate with one Arab group or another such cooperation is considered to be directed against another group? Today

Lebanon is helpless and needs some kind of initiative to salvage it. The Lebanese need to open up to everyone. They are opening up to those who are opening up to them. [passage omitted]

Lebanese Forces Commend Sfayr's Initiative
NC2911175988 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 29 Nov 88

[Excerpt] The Lebanese Forces Command Council held its weekly meeting under Dr Samir Ja'ja' today. The council discussed the initiative by the Maronite Patriarchate in Bkirki and the general situation in Lebanon. The council found Bkirki's initiative to be of broad national significance with a potential that could save the country from its current crisis and thus benefit all the Lebanese. In homage to national principles and out of faith in Bkirki, the Lebanese Forces state that Patriarch Sfayr has a major role to play at this critical juncture of our history. [passage omitted]

Al-Huss To Respond 'Positively' to Initiative
NC2711175288 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 27 Nov 88

[Text] Political activities will resume tomorrow on the basis of Patriarch Nasrallah Butrus Sfayr's initiative concerning presidential elections. This initiative received the first direct response from former Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss in West Beirut today. Al-Huss said that he will respond positively and to the farthest extent possible to Patriarch Sfayr's initiative concerning the names of the presidential candidates. However, he said that, after all that has happened, it is natural that the candidate's visualization of the desired political reforms or his acceptance of change should be the decisive consideration in determining which candidate deserves preference.

In a press interview, Al-Huss said that the candidates should be asked specific questions with regard to the political system and its reform so that the candidate's visualization of Lebanon's political future and the way it should be may be deduced from his answers.

Syria 'Determined' To Disarm West Beirut
NC2911154288 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 29 Nov 88

[Text] AFP has quoted a source close to the Syrian command in Beirut as saying that Damascus is determined to disarm West Beirut and expel the militiamen from there. The same source add that the Syrian Army yesterday detained 50 militiamen from both Amal and Hizballah and seized various types of weapons.

Syrians Reportedly Intimidate Deputy Ma'luli
NC2811201088 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1945 GMT 28 Nov 88

[Text] The BAYRUT NEWS AGENCY reports that the Syrian occupation authorities have contacted Deputy Michel Ma'luli and told him not to attend the Bkirki meeting, warning that otherwise his family and relatives in western Al-Biqa' will be subjected to various types of pressure and terror. Reports say that the Syrian authorities are trying to compel Deputy Ma'luli to sell his shares in the Rihab project in western Al-Biqa' for $50,000, but that Ma'luli continues to procrastinate because these shares are worth three times the amount offered.

2 Syrians Killed by Land Mine in Al-Biqa'
NC2911215788 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 2145 GMT 29 Nov 88

[Text] A land mine has exploded under a Syrian occupation army vehicle in western Al-Biqa', killing a Syrian officer and a soldier who were inside it.

Casualties Reported in Attack on SLA Post
NC2911093688 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 29 Nov 88

[Text] A group of fundamentalist gunmen yesterday attacked a position belonging to the South Lebanese Army [SLA] in Majdal Zun with rockets and machineguns, killing one soldier and wounding two others. The injured people were taken to Marj 'Uyun Hospital.

Lahd Positions Under 'Direct' Israeli Supervision
NC2911122788 (Clandestine) Voice of the People in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 29 Nov 88

[Text] Tension is still reported in the occupied border strip where the Israelis have been particularly active since they began placing most the positions of the Lahd militia under their direct supervision. According to security sources, Israeli officers and armored vehicles are present in all Lahd positions. The occupation forces have established a helicopter landing pad on 4 square km near Marj 'Uyun Hospital. Sources close to the occupation forces says that the landing pad was built to facilitate transport between Marj 'Uyun and Israel, especially in light of the attack on Antoine Lahd.

Israeli Flights Reported Over Sidon, Camps
NC2911215288 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 2145 GMT 29 Nov 88

[Text] Israeli combat aircraft flew over Sidon and the nearby camps this evening, dropping flares. Armed Palestinian and fundamentalist positions fired their antiaircraft guns at the Israeli planes.

Mock Raids over South
NC3011121788 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1200 GMT 30 Nov 88

[Text] In the South, Israeli warplanes conducted mock raids over Sidon and the 'Ayn al-Hulwah and Al-Miyah wa Miyah camps this morning. A state of maximum alert was declared in the area and antiaircraft fire was directed at the planes.

Afghanistan

Differences Among Rebels Delay Talks With Soviets

BK3011123688 Hong Kong AFP in English 1223 GMT 30 Nov 88

[Text] Islamabad, Nov 30 (AFP)—Differences within the seven-party Afghan resistance have stalled proposed direct talks between the rebels and Soviet leaders in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, informed sources said here Wednesday.

Rooms were booked for the resistance delegation at a Jeddah hotel, where the mujahidin were to stay as guests of the Saudis, they said. The Soviet delegation, headed by First Deputy Foreign Minister Yuliy Vorontsov who is also Moscow's ambassador to Kabul, had also obtained hotel reservations, the sources said.

The meeting would be the first-ever direct talks between Soviets and Afghan rebels on ending the nine-year-old anti-communist war in Afghanistan.

The talks were to start Thursday, but resistance leaders became divided on technicalities of the talks.

One resistance source said disagreement centered on the composition of the Afghan team and its leader. A second problem was a demand by some rebels for direct negotiations with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, who they say should sign the eventual agreement instead of Mr. Vorontsov.

The rebels were still deliberating to reach a consensus, although at least three of the seven factions harbored reservations about going to Jeddah.

Others, including moderates, were trying to convince their colleagues that the Soviets' merely agreeing to talk was a major victory for the rebels.

Moscow has indirectly "granted us legitimacy" and the resistance could no longer be considered a "bunch of bandits," they were quoted as saying, referring to a phrase used by the Kabul media to describe the mujahidin guerrilla fighters.

Informed resistance sources said the Pakistani Foreign Ministry had no objections to the talks being held in a third country, but the rebels feared being forced to enter into a ceasefire which could deny them gains they had made in battle or might make in future fighting.

The Saudi Government is unwilling to give official status to the talks because it does not have diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union, the sources said.

Kabul University Damaged by 'Extremist' Bombs

LD3011070188 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0448 GMT 30 Nov 88

[Text] Kabul, Nov. 29, BAKHTAR—The Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan eliminated over 900 persons belonging to the extremist groups in an operation carried out by the Armed Forces on Nov 27 in the suburbs of Towr Kotal and Takhteh Pol village, Qandahar Province, and a large quantity of their weapons fell to the hand of the Armed Forces and their hideouts destroyed.

Now, the life in Towr Kotal and Takhteh Pol areas, Qandahar Province, is quite normal and the areas which were earlier penetrated by the extremists are now completely controlled by the detachments of the Armed Forces. According to available information about 400 Pakistani militias including foreign advisers had also participated in the operation, who failed to resist against the country's Armed Forces.

Included among the captured weapons are over 160,000 assorted bullets, heavy machine-guns, hand grenades, mortars, cannons and anti-personnel mines.

Crushing blows were also inflicted to the extremist elements in Deh Savzi District, Kabol Province, Gowshtah, Rodat [name as received], Sorkh Rud Districts of Nangarhar Province and the enemy's munitions were destroyed. Likewise, the Armed Forces inflicted crushing blows to the extremist groups in the related areas of the Provinces of Paktia, Parvan, Qandahar, and Ghazni.

The U.S. and Pakistan-supported extremist elements had planted explosive materials in the adjacent of the college of language and literature, Kabul University, which blew off. As a result of this brutal act, some students received light injury and financial damage amounting to about 200 thousand afghanis inflicted to the college.

Due to intrinsic clashes took place among the armed extremist groups in Shahrak District, Ghowr Province, seven belligerent extremists were killed and nine injured.

Najibullah's Cousin Defects to Mujahidin in Delhi

BK2911130988 Hong Kong AFP in English 1254 GMT 29 Nov 88

[Text] New Delhi, Nov 29 (AFP)—A cousin of Afghan President Najibullah announced here Tuesday that he had defected to the mujahidin resistance movement and said many other senior Kabul officials were ready to defect.

Muhammad Gul, 27, a Soviet-trained KHAD (secret police) brigadier general, said he had used his position and his family ties with the president to obtain a passport and exit permit and fly to New Delhi with his new wife on October 28.

Addressing a press conference in a government hotel here, he denied that he had defected because KHAD officers were now being sent to the front, or because the position of Mr. Najibullah was becoming increasingly precarious.

"Najibullah has his own mother under house arrest, one of my brothers was arrested and imprisoned (but later released) and another escaped to Pakistan to fight with the mujahidin," he said.

However, he said he believed the Soviet Union was ready to dump Mr. Najibullah and to seek out a friendly non-communist leader, possibly within the mujahidin, to preserve Soviet interests in Afghanistan.

Asked about reports from Islamabad of the possibility of a top level meeting between Soviet negotiators and representatives of the mujahidin this week in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, Mr. Gul said he did not know of the plan.

"In Kabul no one knows what Moscow is doing. The main thing is that the Soviets know the Kabul regime will fall and they are looking for someone in the mujahidin," he said.

Mr. Gul was flanked by representatives of the mujahidin in New Delhi, who told journalists he had been cleared by them as a genuine defector.

He said he had not been afraid of possible reprisals from the mujahidin when he defected, and mujahidin respresentatives at the press conference said they had guaranteed amnesty to defectors who had not committed crimes.

Mr. Gul said Mr. Najibullah, a former KHAD chief to whom he is related on his mother's side, was keeping his mother (Mr. Gul's aunt) Fahima, under house arrest and that he had seen the president slap her after she tried to escape.

He said he himself had never participated in torture carried out by the KHAD, but had been employed as a secretary to the current minister of tribes, and in that capacity had to report on the minister and his staff to the KHAD.

His brother, Nurullah, is currently deputy minister of tribes, he added.

Of Mr. Najibullah's three brothers, one has already defected and is now living in the United States while the other two are working for the KHAD in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Kabul, he said.

He said a large number of people in senior posts wanted to defect, but added that he could not reveal their identities for security reasons.

The representatives of the mujahidin in New Delhi, which has accepted some 10,000 Afghan refugees, said it was the first time they had been permitted to use a government hotel for a press conference.

They added that they felt it was because the government of Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi had changed its attitude of support for the Najibullah government to one of supporting the peace process.

A government spokesman said later that there had been "no change" in New Delhi's attitude towards the Najibullah government.

Some 51 pro-mujahidin Afghans were rounded up and briefly jailed here before and during a state visit here by Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev earlier this month. All have since been released.

Najibullah Issues Decree on Military Promotions

LD2911072788 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0515 GMT 29 Nov 88

[Text] Kabul, Nov. 28, BAKHTAR—Based on a decree issued by Najibullah, the Republic's president and supreme commander of Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan, the following officers who have shown devotion in their assignments have promoted from the ranks of colonel to brigadier general:

1 - Colonel Muhammad Kabir son of Muhammad Yusuf.

2 - Colonel Shamsuddin son of Muhammad Hanif.

3 - Colonel Mirza Muhammad son of Muhammad Rahim.

4 - Colonel Muhammad Musum son of Ghulam Nabi.

132d Note Given to UN Mission in Kabul

LD2911071188 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0436 GMT 29 Nov 88

[Text] Kabul, Nov. 28, BAKHTAR—The one hundred thirty second note of the Republic of Afghanistan on ten instances of violation by Pakistan of the Geneva accords was submitted to the United Nations Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan (UNGOMAP) here today.

In the notice it is mentioned that delivery of armaments to the extremists by Pakistan has enabled them that through their heavy attacks on cities and residential areas cause death to innocent people.

It asks UNGOMAP to investigate the violations and inform results of its findings to the representative of the UN secretary general and to the authorities of the Republic of Afghanistan.

'American Adviser' Killed by Armed Forces
LD2911072088 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0518 GMT 29 Nov 88

[Text] Kabul, Nov. 28, BAKHTAR—Crushing blows were inflicted on the extremist elements in the past twenty four hours.

Owing to a mopping up operation carried out in the suburbs of Logar and Qandahar Provinces twenty two extremist elements were killed including one American adviser and two of their ringleaders. A large amount of the enemies' weapons also fell at the hand of the Armed Forces [words indistinct] of their weapons were destroyed during these operations, in both Logar and Qandahar Provinces.

According to another report internal clashes have ever further intensified between the extremist groups in various parts of the country.

Six persons related to the hostile groups were killed and a large number of others wounded as a result of the clashes took place between the extremist groupings in Moqor District of Ghazni Province and Eshkamesh District of Takhar Province.

The extremists fired once again on Sunday heavy rockets on the residential areas of Gardeyz city, center of Paktia Province, as a result of which one person was killed and three others injured. A shrine and five residential houses were destroyed as well.

Mujahidin Successes in Nangahar, Oruzgan, Konduz
BK2911164988 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 29 Nov 88

[Text] According to reports from Afghanistan, the mujahidin have continued their operations against the Samar Kheyl, Jalalabad, and Sorkh Dival garrisons, and in an attack on Saturday [26 November] they killed at least 36 Kabul soldiers and destroyed 3 tanks, 4 vehicles, and 80 heavy machineguns, as well as 3 security posts. In Qandahar, the mujahidin destroyed an ammunition dump on Friday. In Oruzgan, the mujahidin conducted successful operations against posts around the Tarin Kowt garrison, killing 26 Kabul soldiers and destroying 3 military posts.

In a sudden and effective attack in the Adraskan District, Herat Province, the mujahidin inflicted heavy losses on Kabul troops.

In Konduz Province, all military personnel stationed at two military posts at Konduz Airport recently joined the mujahidin along with their arms and ammunition. Most of Konduz Province is now under mujahidin control and Kabul regime troops are stationed only in the city and at Konduz Airport.

In a recent operation, the mujahidin destroyed military posts in the industrial area of central Baghlan Province. The mujahidin arrested 30 members of the militia and seized a tank, 4 trucks, 2 heavy machineguns, and other weapons.

Rabbani on Bhutto Victory, Mujahidin Peace Plan
PM2211154688 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 21 Nov 88 pp 1-2

[Jamal Khashuqji report: "Afghan Mujahidin Tell AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: We Dealt With Benazir's Father and We Will Deal With Her"]

[Excerpts] Jeddah—Despite the setback to the Pakistan People's Party [PPP] in the local elections, party leader Benazir Bhutto is still the most likely candidate to form the new government [passage omitted]

In the Afghan mujahidin's first reaction to the PPP's victory in the recent elections under Benazir Bhutto, Afghan mujahidin alliance leader Professor Burhanuddin Rabbani said that Pakistan's position, which is supportive of the Afghan cause, stems from its definite interests, which is why we do not expect any changes when the Pakistani leadership is replaced. [passage omitted]

The mujahidin leader added: We began the jihad in the era of Benazir's father, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, who supported us, and for this reason we expect Miss Bhutto to pursue the same line. [passage omitted]

With regard to the mujahidin's position on whether Benazir should accept the peaceful solutions proposed in the arena and the elimination of the mujahidin forces which insist on toppling the Najibullah government and establishing an Islamic state, Rabbani said: When the jihad began we had very little in terms of territory and arms, but our decisions were independent. Now that the mujahidin are within view of Kabul we will not accept any foreign interference. [passage omitted]

Regarding the mujahidin's new peace plan he said: Within the coming weeks a council will be formed, comprised of all Afghan parties, organizations, and factions. [passage omitted]

Rabbani said that the council will choose the next government, which will be made up of the mujahidin and other parties. He pointed out: I have informed both the UN secretary general and President Reagan of our agreement to form a broad based government, so long as the communists are not included, as they are war criminals.

He added: I am amazed at those who urge us to include them, while at the same time they continue their search for a war criminal to punish after 50 years. How do they expect us to include war criminals in an Islamic government?

Rabbani Cited on Operations, Future Government
PM2911162088 Jeddah 'UKAZ in Arabic
24 Nov 88 p 8

[Interview with mujahidin leader Burhanuddin Rabbani by Muhammad Tulbah, Muhammad 'Addawi, and Hasan 'Uqayli in Jeddah; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] ['UKAZ] We have heard that there is some kind of rapprochement between your party and those led by Yunis Khalis and Prof 'Abdul Rasul Sayyaf. Reports indicate that you are seeking to form a tripartite merger. How true is this, and will this merger be confined to the three parties or will it be open to the other parties?

[Rabbani] We have taken good steps toward uniting the three factions into one group. Obviously, the door will be open to those who wish to join the merger in order to achieve our objective, namely, establishing Muslim Afghanistan. [passage omitted]

['UKAZ] Have you agreed on the form of government, particularly as it was reported that the alternative is a coalition government headed by [former King] Zahir Shah, to which Sayyed Ahmad Gaylani's party [National Islamic Liberation Front] has agreed?

[Rabbani] We have agreed to form a council comprised of all groups. I believe such a council can decide on the form of government. [passage omitted]

['UKAZ] Have you defined the aspects of the peace plan?

[Rabbani] Yes. Our plan centers on the peaceful transfer of authority by forming a council that will, in turn, form a broad based government. [passage omitted]

['UKAZ] What about your meeting with Reagan and President-Elect Bush? And frankly, what role do you expect the Americans to play?

[Rabbani] You know that the United States is a party to the Geneva agreement which we repudiated and the Soviets violated. When they asked to see us we went and met with Reagan and Bush and pointed out that there are basic principles that must be taken into account, foremost being that the Soviet Union is the aggressor and has violated the Geneva agreement. For this reason international pressure must be exerted to prevent the Soviet Union from continuing to kill the innocent. As for the U.S. position, they pointed out that they have no intention of interfering in our internal affairs, that they respect our decisions, and that U.S. policy is steadfast with regard to the justice of our cause. They told us that we are in the right and that the Soviets are in the wrong.

['UKAZ] Following its announcement that it had ceased its withdrawal, the Soviet Union sent weapons to Afghanistan. These included 30 MiG-27 aircraft and large numbers of Skoda [as transliterated] missiles. Is this merely a political maneuver or is it an attempt to firmly strengthen the pillars of the agent regime, which has begun to collapse as a result of the fierce offensives launched by the mujahidin?

[Rabbani] The agent regime will be unable to resist. The Russians realize that they will be unable to gain a foothold or strengthen the Kabul regime. It is merely a political maneuver aimed at terrorizing and intimidating us, but we shall continue to bear arms until Muslim Afghanistan is reestablished. [passage omitted]

['UKAZ] The mujahidin's abandonment of their attempt to recapture Kabul raises questions about coordination among the factions. Some attribute it to the Kabul regime's ability to defend its capital. Others say that the mujahidin's vision of the post-withdrawal stage has not yet crystallized. What is the truth?

[Rabbani] The reason for delaying the storming of Kabul is the mujahidin's eagerness to spare the blood of 2 million innocent men, women, and children forced to stay there. Another reason is that the fall of Kabul would mean the collapse of the state, and that would require the existence of an administration to run its affairs. We are already in the process of forming that administration. [passage omitted]

Bangladesh

'Disappointment' Expressed Over 'Arafat Visa Issue
BK2811155688 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 28 Nov 88

[Text] Bangladesh has expressed disappointment over the U.S. refusal to grant a visa to PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat to address the UN General Assembly debate on Palestine.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman said in Dhaka today this development would not be helpful in the search for a peaceful settlement of the Middle East problem.

The spokesman said Bangladesh would urge the U.S. authorities to reconsider their decision.

India

Spokesman Regrets U.S. Position on 'Arafat Visa
BK2911144788 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1430 GMT 29 Nov 88

[Text] India today regretted the U.S. decision to deny a visa to the chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization [PLO], Mr Yasir 'Arafat, to address the UN General Assembly. An official spokesman said in New Delhi today this is particularly unfortunate at a time when there have been moves toward greater flexibility and approach on the part of the PLO.

Rao: Chakma Refugees Must Return to Bangladesh

BK3011090588 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 30 Nov 88

[Text] The external affairs minister, Mr Narasimha Rao, categorically stated in the Rajya Sabha today that the Chakma refugees on Indian soil are Bangladeshi nationals and they will have to go back to their country. He said the Government of India has no intention to take steps for their settlement in India.

Mr Narasimha Rao told the House during question hour that New Delhi is in contact with Dhaka to persuade the Bangladesh Government to take necessary steps for creating conditions in the Chittagong Hill Tracts which would give the refugees confidence to return to their homes.

Rao on UK Moves To Control 'Terrorist' Funds

BK3011085988 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 30 Nov 88

[Text] The Rajya Sabha was informed today that a legislation has been introduced in the British parliament to control the collection and misuse of funds by terrorist organizations, including Sikh extremist organizations.

During question hour, the external affairs minister, Mr Narasimha Rao, replying to a supplementary told the House that the British Government is all out to help the Indian Government. He said that several persons have been apprehended and brought to justice who have actually committed acts of violence on that soil. He expressed the hope that recent public statements by British political leaders condemning Sikh extremist activities in that country may help deter their activities.

Punjab 'Terrorists' Attack Post With Rockets

BK3011084988 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 30 Nov 88

[Text] In Punjab terrorists attacked a CRPF [Central Reserve Police Force] post with rockets in village Sarai Amanatkhan in Amritsar District last night. According to an official spokesman, four rockets were fired causing some cracks in the boundary wall and damage to window panes. The terrorists fled, when the CRPF jawans [soldiers] returned the fire. The security forces immediately launched a combing operation.

Pant Says Way Opened for Solution to Tamil Issue

BK2611131988 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 26 Nov 88

[Text] The defense minister, Mr K.C. Pant, says a way has now been opened for a political solution to the ethnic problem in Sri Lanka following the peaceful conduct of provincial elections in the northeast.

Addressing Air Force jawans [personnel] in Bangalore today, he praised the Peacekeeping Force for creating a peaceful environment for elections in that island nation. He said the country's prestige has gone high because of the peaceful role played by the Armed Forces in Sri Lanka and the Maldives.

The defense minister has asked the Armed Forces to be vigilant to act fast when required.

Minister To Visit Southeast Asia on Cambodia

BK2611134688 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 26 Nov 88

[Text] The minister of state for external affairs, Mr Natwar Singh, is visiting four Southeast Asian countries next week to hold discussions on the Cambodian issue. An External Affairs Ministry spokesman told newsmen in New Delhi today that the visit is a follow-up of the recent visit of the Soviet president, Mr Gorbachev, to India and a prelude to Prime Minister Mr Rajiv Gandhi's forthcoming visit to China. Mr Natwar Singh will return on the 8th of next month.

Iran

Majles Speaker Comments on Foreign Ties, PLO

LD2911174488 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 29 Nov 88

[Text] Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, acting commander in chief of the Armed Forces and speaker of the Majles, this afternoon participated in a news and radio and television interview attended by a large group of correspondents and by representatives of the domestic and foreign media. He replied to questions on various subjects.

In one part of the interview, which also was attended by a group of FRG reporters who are in Iran accompanying that country's foreign minister, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani referred to the role of the international community in the total and early execution of Resolution No 598. He said: We do not expect anything more except that those people who continuously chanted peace slogans should now adhere sincerely to the implementation of the resolution. We regard as positive the developments that have begun recently. The Majles speaker considered that the trip by FRG Foreign Minister Genscher and his accompanying delegation marked the start of the qualitative expansion of relations between the two countries.

In reply to a question by one of the reporters concerning relations with the Arab countries of the region, the Majles speaker referred to the elimination of problems regarding the expansion of relations with these countries. With reference to Saudi Arabia, he said: [Saudi] Arabia behaved badly toward Iranian pilgrims in the hajj ceremony incident and martyred some of them. It must make up for this. He added: These countries also took a wrong position toward OPEC. This resulted in the fall in oil prices, but fortunately this too has changed recently.

In another part of the interview, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani replied to a question on preserving the country's independence, saying: In the course of these 10 years, we showed that no threat against the revolution can be successful. We believe that Iran is one of the independent countries of the world as it is not subjected to domination by any foreign powers. In the future, we hope that, with the cooperation of the world's Muslims, we can create an Islamic movement with the potential to expand in the world.

In connection with the Palestine National Council's acceptance of UN Resolutions Nos 242 and 338 and its recognition of Israel, he said: We do not have any opposition to the formation of a Palestinian government, but we do not accept that the land of Palestine should be non-Palestinian. A free country should be set up in Palestine.

Discusses Hostages

LD2911185988 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 29 Nov 88

[Text] Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, acting commander in chief of the Armed Forces and speaker of the Majles, took part this afternoon in a press and radio and television interview attended by a large group of reporters and by representatives of the domestic and foreign media. He replied to questions on various subjects.

In one part of the interview—which also was attended by a group of FRG reporters who are in Iran accompanying that country's foreign minister—Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani said in connection with the role of the international community in the complete and early execution of Resolution No 598: We do not expect anything more than that those who continuously chanted peace slogans should now adhere sincerely to the implementation of the resolution. We regard the developments that have begun recently as positive. The Majles speaker considered that the trip by FRG Foreign Minister Genscher and his accompanying delegation was an opening for the qualitative expansion of relations between the two countries.

In reply to REUTER reporter's question on whether Mr Terry Waite, who is a churchman, would be released sooner than other hostages, and on Iran's position with regard to the hostages in Lebanon, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani said:

We told the archbishop of Canterbury that if Britain is ready to use its influence in Lebanon to free our hostages, then we too, will help in freeing their hostages. No serious steps have been taken up to now, or if some steps have been taken we do not know about them. If Britain and the United States are serious about the release of our hostages in Lebanon, then we too, will use our facilities to release their hostages.

With regard to Iran's relations with the Arab countries of the Persian Gulf littoral, the Majles speaker said: We announced that we were willing to solve our difficulties with the Arab countries of the southern Persian Gulf. Most of these difficulties were connected with the war. We do not expect anything from them. Of course, we had our complaints about their support for Iraq, but now that the war has ended and these difficulties have been removed, we see no obstacle to the expansion of relations with these countries. Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani added: Saudi Arabia behaved very badly toward Iranian pilgrims in the hajj ceremony incident and martyred some of them. It must make up for this. He added: These countries also took a wrong position with regard to OPEC. The consequence of this was the fall in oil prices, but fortunately this too has changed recently.

In reply to the reporters' request, the Majles speaker described relations between Iran and Japan as sincere and acceptable, adding: Recently, a Japanese delegation came to Iran to study the state of the petrochemical complex. After spending some time on their investigation, they departed without giving us their views. We have hopes of reconstructing this complex.

Asked whether there was any background [sabeqeh] to Carter's letter to Imam Khomeyni, the acting commander in chief of the Armed Forces said: No prior endorsement [poshtvaneh] was prepared for this letter. The text of the letter was published; you have heard it.

In another part of the interview, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani replied to a question on preserving the country's independence, saying: In the course of these 10 years, we showed that no threat against the revolution can be successful. We believe that Iran is one of the independent countries of the world since it is not subjected to the domination of any of the foreign powers. In the future, we hope that, with the cooperation of the world's muslims, we can create an Islamic movement with the potential to expand in the world.

In connection with the PNC's acceptance of UN Resolutions Nos 242 and 338 and its recognition of Israel, he said: We do not have any opposition to the formation of a Palestinian government, but we do not accept that the land of Palestine should be non-Palestinians. A free country should be set up in Palestine. And all the people should participate in the formation of that country's government so the government of Palestine would be a Palestinian one.

Larajani Comments on Renewing Ties With U.S.

LD2911153088 Tehran IRNA in English 1526 GMT 29 Nov 88

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 29, IRNA—The US is very unlikely to change its hostility towards Iran, but Tehran would "study" the issue of ties if any future US Government genuinely sought to have relations on the basis of mutual respect, said a deputy foreign minister.

Mohammad Javad Larijani expressed doubts whether "American officials were wise enough to understand the realities. Quoting the leader of the Islamic Republic Imam Khomeyni's comparison of Washington-Tehran relations as those between a "wolf and lamb", Larijani said the Islamic Republic never needs such relations with the US.

"However", added Larijani, "if someday a government sincerely favoring resumption of ties with Iran on the basis of mutual respect and non-interference in its internal affairs comes to power in the US, then we will study the issue."

"If one day we were to resume ties with U.S. such a relationship will certainly be on the basis of mutual respect and non-interference in each others' internal affairs," he reiterated. Larijani's statements to West German reporters accompanying Bonn's Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, came after Tuesday's publication of Majles Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani's letter to former US President Carter rejecting a plea for help to release American hostages in Lebanon.

Larijani said the Islamic Republic wants to see the immediate return of all hostages to their countries but the issue of Iranian hostages in Lebanon tops all considerations. "Our position is that all hostages should be released", he added. Turning to Iran-Iraq peace talks, the Foreign Ministry deputy for Euro-American affairs called on the UN Security Council to pressure Baghdad to accept full implementation of Resolution 598 and the secretary-general's four-point plan.

He said the Security Council was reluctant to put pressure on Iraq to accept Perez de Cuellar's four-point plan. "In fact the Security Council has not exploited all its potentials for the progress of peace talks and full enforcement of 598."

On Tehran-Bonn ties, he said the Islamic Republic attaches great importance to Genscher's visit and regards it as a "turning point" for expansion of bilateral ties. Larijani noted the two countries can expand cooperation in the fields of technology, energy and industry. When asked about the improvement of ties between Iran and Western countries, the Foreign Ministry deputy replied Tehran is proceeding with its policy to normalize relations with major European countries.

On ties with certain Persian Gulf littoral states, and referring in particular to Saudi Arabia moves to improve ties with Tehran, Larijani said "we consider their desire for resuming and strengthening ties with the Islamic Republic as positive." There have been recently contacts between Saudi Arabia and the Islamic Republic, Larijani disclosed without elaborating. "The trend points to an improvement of ties among Persian Gulf states and an era of security and stability in the region."

On Importance of Genscher Visit

LD2911180288 Tehran Television in Persian 1600 GMT 29 Nov88

[Text] Today, at a news conference in which both FRG and domestic correspondents participated, Deputy Foreign Minister Larijani replied to questions on various topics.

On the perspective of relations between Iran and the FRG Mr Larijani said that Mr Genscher's visit to Iran is important. He then added: We believe that his visit is a turning point in the expansion of relations between the two countries.

He said: Relations between Iran and the FRG are historical. At present these relations are at a high level and cooperation can be expanded in such fields as industry, energy, and technology. We hope that expert talks may provide the opportunity for a greater expansion of these ties.

FRG Foreign Minister Genscher Continues Visit

Reviews Trade Ties With Iravani

LD2911175288 Tehran IRNA in English 1715 GMT 29 Nov 88

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 29, IRNA—Simultaneous with post-war reconstruction Iran will implement its first five-year plan economic development plan, the minister of economic and financial affairs told the West German Foreign Minister today. Mohammad Javad Iravani added that during reconstruction, besides developing agriculture, Iran will give priority to power plants, refineries, petrochemicals and various other industries especially defence.

Drawing Hans-Dietrich Genscher's attention towards the imbalance in Tehran-Bonn trade ties, he said such an imbalance in Bonn's favour could be detrimental to bilateral cooperation. Meanwhile West German deputy agricultural minister, member of Genscher's highpowered delegation, said Monday his country will help Iran increase agricultural production and minimize losses.

Wolfgang A.F. Grabisch's meeting with Mostaz'afan (deprived) Foundation Head Tahmasb Mazaheri was also attended by several high ranking economic officials of the two countries.

Confers With Majles Speaker

LD2911185288 Tehran IRNA in English 1838 GMT 29 Nov 88

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 29, IRNA—Iran and West Germany signed a scientific, technical and cultural agreement and discussed German credit for the implementation of major industrial projects in Iran, it was announced at the end of an official visit by Bonn's foreign minister Tuesday.

"In talks with Mr Hans-Dietrich Genscher we talked about getting some kind of financial credit," said Majles Speaker Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani. "If the talks reach good results, there will be exchanges with other countries as well."

This is the clearest statement yet on Iran's possible turn to foreign markets to finance some of its largest postwar projects. Any such major credit arrangement would be the first since the Islamic Revolution.

The Majles speaker held talks with the West German foreign minister before his departure at the end of his two-day stay Tuesday evening. This was Genscher's second visit to Iran and the first by a senior Western official since the August ceasefire.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani praised Genscher for his statement condemning Iraq as the aggressor, the first Western minister to do so before the ceasefire. "At the moment we have no major problem with other European countries but the difference between your country (W. Germany) and the rest is that our relations remained strong during the war," he said in his meeting with Genscher.

Genscher described his talks as "beneficial and positive". He invited Foreign Minister Velayati to make an official visit to Bonn which was accepted.

Other ministers from both countries are to trade visits. West German ministers of agriculture and housing are due here in the near future. Genscher said his country was prepared to help Iran during the reconstruction period. West Germany gained valuable experience in reconstruction after the Second World War and it could thus play a major role in Iran, he added.

His talks with Iranian officials also centered on the Geneva peace talks with Iraq and Genscher said he backed the mediation efforts of UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar. "We support the brave efforts of the secretary general concerning the peace talks and the implementation of Resolution 598," he said.

Iranian leaders stressed in their talks that West Germany, at the end of its month-long chairmanship of the Security Council, should put pressure on Iraq to accept the the step by step implementation of the resolution, particularly on the withdrawal of troops from Iran.

Responding to Genscher on the UN desire to follow up human rights issues in Iran, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said Islam had the highest regard for human rights and in fact it is the west which has a wrong view on human rights and terrorism.

He pointed out Washington's support for Israel which was continuously terrorizing the Palestinians and the people of Lebanon, as well as American backing for repressive states in Africa and Asia as clear examples of US human rights violations and acts of terrorism.

President-elect Bush Undecided on Middle East
LD2911115188 Tehran IRNA in English
1140 GMT 129 Nov 88

[Text] London, Nov. 29, IRNA—With just over a month before taking over as the 41st president of the U.S., George Bush is seen as still decidely ambiguous in his policy towards the Middle East, except in Washington's undying support for the Zionist regime.

The appointment of the most successful Arab-American as chief of staff, John Sununi of Lebanese-Palestinan extractions, has posed further questions over his directional strategy, which acording to the MIDDLE EAST DIGEST, continues to be "undecided on specific issues."

The security of the Zionist entity is "virtually paramount" but there is no indication what degree Bush is prepared to play in resolving the Palestinian question, it said.

The president-elect numbered several Arab rulers among his close personal friends and the magazine suggested that his response to arms requests would help to define his policy, but, like Reagan, would try to keep his position on Israel and in the Persian Gulf separate.

A report last week from THE ECONOMIST intelligence unit said U.S. strategists have always believed that Washington's interest in the long term were more beneficial in Iran than Iraq, but that it still had to cope with repercussions from the Irangate scandal.

America needed to create a "coherent and acceptable policy" toward the Islamic government as rapidly and as decisively as possible but so far statements by Bush and his entourage were still taking a hard-line aginst Iran, it said.

Relations with Tehran was "imperative" if Washington wanted to contain the Soviet Union in the Persian Gulf and in the Middle East and a movement to improve ties would give the U.S. the support of all major neighbouring states, save Iraq, and would compensate for its "loses in prestige" in the area since 1979.

The report warned that advances would not be lightly given by Iran and that such issues as the outstanding Hague tribunal claims, compensation for shooting down an Iranian Airbus, the continuing issue of frozen Iranian assets in the U.S. would have to be settled.

Any improvement was not expected to be instant as Iran had "every reason to suspect U.S. political and institutionalised hatred of the U.S.A."

It advised Bush would have to offer "real benefits" to Tehran as no Iranian leader will be inclined to offend Moscow and even in its attempts, it suggested that the U.S. could also find competition from Europe, especially at the commercial level.

Australian Energy Minister Arrives 25 Nov

LD2611045288 Tehran IRNA in English
1657 GMT 25 Nov 88

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 25, IRNA—Australian Minister of Primary Industries and Energy John C. Kerin heading an economic delegation arrived here today and was welcomed by Agriculture Minister 'Isa Kalantari. Kerin said he will discuss mutual cooperation with Iranian officials.

Two Iranian delegations visited Australia last month, Kerin said adding his country is ready to help Iran in the field of mine exploration and to give necessary training. He suggested that due to increased demand for oil, Australia may purchase Iranian oil in the future. At present domestic productions meets more than 90 percent of the country's needs, he added.

Trade between the two countries includes the export of meat and livestock to Iran in return for carpets and pistachio.

Kalantari said Iran is willing to learn from Australia's experience in the fields of animal husbandry and dry farming as well as its scientific and technological expertise.

Stressing that Iran is not willing to merely import goods, Kalantari said Iran in the past purchased meat and wheat from Australia, but that "our imports should be accompanied by transfer of scientific and educational knowhow."

During his three-day visit here the Australian minister is to confer with Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi in addition to ministers of construction jihad, agriculture, plan and budget, mines and metals, finance, and head of Mostaz'afan (Oppressed) Foundation.

Meets With Musavi

LD2711014688 Tehran IRNA in English
1727 GMT 26 Nov 88

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 26, IRNA—Iraq's continued refusal to honour valid international accords is the major obstacle towards a lasting peace remarked the prime minister Saturday.

"The world should pressure Baghdad to abide by U.N. Resolution 598 to avert the 'no war no peace' situation endangering the region" Hoseyn Musavi told the Australian minister of primary industries and energy.

Warning that disregard for international pacts will make the region more explosive, he vowed "the Islamic Republic will never retreat from its stance."

The premier also briefed John C. Kerin on the importance Iran attaches to its foreign relations. Increase of contacts between Iranian and Australian officials would be effective in expanding mutual cooperation, he added.

Kerin who arrived here yesterday replied that Australia is keen on a multilateral expansion of ties with the Islamic Republic and is looking forward to cooperation in its postwar reconstruction projects.

Letter of Understanding Signed

LD2811225688 Tehran IRNA in English
1755 GMT 28 Nov 88

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 28, IRNA—Iran and Australia inked a letter of understanding here today for expansion of mutual agricultural cooperation. The letter was signed by agriculture minister of Iran and Australian minister of primary industries and energy.

According to the letter the two countries will cooperate in the fields of agricultural training, pasture fertilizing, poultry breeding, honey bee culture and sugarcane production.

Before signing the letter Australia's John Kerin expressed hope that Tehran-Canberra would soon set up a joint economic commission to follow up the contents of the letter. The letter would greatly help expand economic cooperation between the two countries, he added.

The volume of bilateral trade exchanges is a little more than dlrs. 260 million of which Australia's exports to Iran stand at 250 million dlrs, Kerin said.

In reply 'Isa Kalantari said Iran-Australia trade exchanges have to-date been almost one-sided, with Iranian exports accounting for only dlrs. 10 million.

From now on Iran's oil exports to Australia would increase and the two countries will also expand their mining cooperation, Kalantari said.

Kerin before leaving for New Delhi at the end of a 4-day visit met with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati this afternoon, where he expressed hope that the letter of understanding would serve as a firm ground for expansion of mutual ties.

Australia can play a more active role in Iran's postwar reconstruction and "we are waiting for the Islamic Republic to announce its priorities," he told Velayati.

Toward the end of the meeting Kerin renewed the invitation to Velayati for visiting Canberra.

Kerin also met Acting Commerce Minister 'Abdol Hoseyn Vahaji today, and said his country was keen on cooperating in technical projects including expert advice on silos and wheat granaries.

The two also reviewed imports of Australian wheat, meat, wool and dairy products in return for export of oil and non- oil goods to that country.

Vahaji said Iran can import raw materials such as wool from Australia in return for exporting some of its industrial products.

John C. Kerin who arrived in Tehran at the head of delegation, November 23, also visited the Iranian steel plants of Esfahan Sunday.

Cultural, Scientific Pact Signed With Madagascar
LD2511153488 Tehran IRNA in English
1525 GMT 25 Nov 88

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 25, IRNA—Iran and Madagascar Friday inked their first cultural, scientific and technical protocol. Exchange of university professors and students, granting of scholarships and joint cooperation in mass media are some of the items in the protocol.

It was signed between Iranian deputy minister of cultural and higher education and Madagascan Deputy Minister of Art and Revolutionary Culture Justin Rakotoniaina before his departure.

Rakotoniaina, heading a cultural delegation, heid two days of talks with Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi, Minister of Culture and Higher Education Mohammad Farhadi and other Iranian officials on the expansion of cultural and scientific ties.

The Madagascan delegation had been invited to attend an international congress in commemoration of the 600th death anniversary of the Iranian poet, Hafez, in Shiraz.

Before leaving Tehran, Rakotoniaina who is also a member of Madagascar's Supreme Revolutionary Council called for further cooperation between the two countries.

Industries Minister Nabavi Leaves for Libya
LD2811181988 Tehran IRNA in English
0732 GMT 28 Nov 88

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 28, IRNA—Minister of Heavy Industries Behzad Nabavi left here for Tripoli, Libya today at the head of a ranking economic delegation.

In an interview before departure, Nabavi said during his five-day stay he will attend the first meeting of the joint Tehran-Tripoli Economic and Cultural Commission. The meeting will consider grounds for further economic, technical and cultural cooperation to sign a letter of understanding, he said, adding expansion of political ties will also be discussed.

Nabavi is accompanied by a 28-man delegation comprising senior officials from the Ministries of Heavy Industries, Commerce, Culture and Islamic Guidance, Industries, Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC), and Defence. It also includes some Majlis deputies.

Another 57-man Iranian team is already in Libya to investigate grounds for mutual cooperation.

Commentary Urges End to Amal-Hizballah Fighting
LD2711114888 Tehran in English to Europe
1930 GMT 26 Nov 88

[Unattributed commentary: "Clashes Between Amal Movement and Hizballah"]

[Text] Bloody clashes between the militiamen of Amal Movement and Hizballah, which had assumed vaster dimensions in the southern suburbs of Beirut last Thursday, were eventually halted early yesterday morning with the intervention of Syria's military units. Based on the agreement reached between the two sides, the intervening Syrian troops have been deployed in certain axes of those regions. Reports received from Lebanon indicated that the several-hour-long clashes of last Tuesday [as heard] between the Amal and Hizballah forces were the starting point in the resumption of those bloody combats. These were the most violent clashes since the deployment of the Syrian forces in the southern suburbs of Beirut last month. According to the report, a considerable number of forces from the two sides, along with a number of civilian residents of those regions, have been killed or wounded so far in the fight between the two Muslim groups. Also, relatively heavy material losses have been suffered by the civilians' homes, and fires were caused in the areas where clashes have occured.

At the same time, a security committee, composed of representatives of the Amal Movement, Hizballah, and Syrian military officers, is continuing its meetings and contacts in order to stabilize the truce and to remove the armed personnel of the two sides from the regions of clash. However, despite a halt in the fighting, the situation in southern and western Beirut continues to be tense and critical. At any rate, whatever the reason for the resumption of these tragic combats between the two Muslim and anti-Zionist forces, especially under the present conditions, it would only lead to the weakening and destabilization of the position and capability of those two forces.

Now that Lebanon is faced with such sensitive and critical conditions in its history and the Zionist enemy has intensified its savage attacks against the defenseless people of that country, there appears to be a need, greater than at any other time in the past, for forging

unity and solidarity among all the Muslims and progressive forces in order to confront the enemies of Lebanon and those hostile toward the establishment of unity and solidarity among nations. Meanwhile, under the conditions when a part of the Lebanese soil continues to be under the occupation of the Zionist army and its mercenaries, and when the responsibility of confronting the Israeli occupiers and liberating Lebanon is felt by every single Muslim, as well as the nationalist and progressive forces of that country, it is necessary that the Amal Movement and Hizballah act as supporters of one another and supplement one another's efforts. They should divide the roles among themselves in order to bolster the political-military situation, otherwise, the only group to exploit the scatteredness and (?implausible) hostility between those two Muslim forces would be the same Zionist regime, and other enemies of Lebanon, including separatists and (?others).

It is advisable that those two forces offer their blood for the liberation and independence of their own country and wage a struggle against the enemy. In this connection, religious and political figures of Lebanon, while describing as dangerous the hostility between the Amal Movement and Hizballah, have called for an immediate halt in the fighting between the two sides. 'Allamah Sayyid Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, in his Friday prayer sermons, delivered in the southern suburbs of Beirut, stressed the need for an announcement of a total end to the tragic fighting and fratricide, and declared that only the enemy would gain from these combats. That prominent theologian pointed out that the propaganda mouthpieces are attempting to fan up fresh conflicts among the Muslims, and undoubtedly, this part of the (?spies) organization's game is still the aim to pollute the scene and to fish in troubled waters. Therefore, it is the duty of all the officials and those on Lebanon's Islamic and nationist scene to beware of the serious dangers, to keep in mind the sensitivity of the current stage, and to focus their efforts on terminating those (?sinful) and unpleasant incidents.

Statement Rejects Recognition of Israel

LD2911175888 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 29 Nov 88

[Text] The Ministry of Foreign Affairs today issued a statement stressing the Islamic Republic of Iran's full support for the struggles of the Palestinian Muslims.

According to the Central News Unit, the statement, which is released on the occasion of the world day for solidarity with the people of Palestine, 29 November, while supporting the establishment of an independent Palestinian state in all the territory of Palestine, rejects any move which entails recognition of the Zionist regime.

Paper Comments on PLO 'Recognition' of Israel

NC2411164388 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 17 Nov 88 p 2

[Editorial: "PLO Recognizes Israeli Officially"]

[Text] Official recognition of Israel 40 years after its usurpation of the land of Palestine is an important, sensitive, and fateful phenomenon. This is true for the following reasons:

First, until now, the PLO had said that the movement of the Muslim people of the occupied lands continues, and that they are confronting the Israeli forces with stones, or even emptyhanded.

Second, until recently the PLO was saying that the Iran-Iraq war had overshadowed the Palestine issue and was a hindrance to the solidarity of the Muslims against Israel. This recognition of Israel comes 3 months after the ceasefire, when peace talks are in progress.

Third, before the Israeli elections were held, the PLO said that if Shamir were elected, the PLO would be forced to resort to an armed struggle. Now that Shamir has been elected, the PLO has officially recognized Israel and Shamir.

In a nutshell, if the PLO is to wield an empty rifle, it would be more itting to lay it down so that it does not tire itself, and so that the position of all Muslim nations and the combatant Muslim Palestinians on the PLO might become clear.

UN Envoy Criticizes Human Rights Report

LD2611222288 Tehran IRNA in English 1750 GMT 26 Nov 88

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 26, IRNA—Iran's permanent representative at the United Nations criticized a UN commission's report on Iran in which it accused the Islamic Republic of continued violation of human rights.

At the same time Mohammad Ja'far Mahallati offered cooperation with the UN body to "clarify the truth", according to the Foreign Ministry's public relations office.

He said the report published earlier this month by the UN Special Commission on Human Rights was largely based on accusations made by the Mojahedin-e Khalq [MKO] anti-revolutionary organization (Monafeqin) [hypocrites], based in Baghdad.

The MKO ordered its forces to attack Iran during the war with Iraq and this alone would make them traitors according to any school of thought, he said.

"Those who are really interested in improving human rights throughout the world should better rely on correct and unbiased information," he said in a speech Friday during a meeting of the commission in New York.

He described an attempt by some Western countries to prepare a resolution against Iran based on the report as "useless, totally meaningless and unconstructive" and added that instead Iran and the UN should cooperate on the matter.

"In order to test the intentions behind this issue and to clarify the truth, the Islamic Republic of Iran proposes a principled cooperation between Iran and the UN special representative (on Iran) instead of issuing this unprincipled resolution," Mahallati said. He added: "We invite the UN special representative to a constructive and healthy debate."

The Iranian official said it was a distinct fact that the amount of violence and bloodshed after the Islamic revolution had been little compared to all other revolutions.

Red Cross Seeks Explanation on POW Problem
LD2811104488 Berne International Service in English 1000 GMT 28 Nov 88

[Text] The All-Swiss International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] says it is seeking an explanation from Iran on why Tehran failed to present to the ICRC all Iraqi prisoners of war due to be repatriated. The statement follows an Iranian announcement that Tehran is suspending the release of sick and wounded Iraqi prisoners captured during the Gulf war because, it says, Iraq released fewer Iranian prisoners than agreed. An ICRC spokesman in Geneva told Swiss Radio International that the row started when Iran presented fewer prisoners to ICRC officials monitoring the exchange than listed by the Red Cross.

Official on Forming '20-Million-Strong Force'
LD2611212188 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1217 GMT 24 Nov 88

["In Line With the People, In Step With the Officials" program]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Announcer] Mr Afshar [not further identified], I would like to refer to his holiness the imam's historic message addressed to the IRGC headquarters, in which he stressed the observance of respect and the need for actively employing the pioneers on the path of jihad and martyrdom by those in charge of the projects. Would you please inform us of the IRGC's plans in this respect?

[Afshar] I would first like to point out a fact which existed throughout the period of the imposed war, and that was the lack of a proper opportunity to organize a strong and suitable 20-million-strong force. During this period some of the mobilization forces who went to the fronts would come back for a short period and then return to the fronts again. There were continuous dispatches of mobilization forces to the fronts. These dispatches and redispatches of mobilization forces to the fronts and their training programs were carried out at a time when we were forced to make plans for every assault, and when the mobilization forces were extremely active in the war situation. We had neither the time nor the environment for the organization of these forces.

However, following the ceasefire, the IRGC can now invest more capital in forming a 20-million-strong force, that is of course with the approval of the popular elements and the commander of the Armed Forces. In order to establish a resistance force, the IRGC, together with the aid of the existing corps itself comprised of regional resistance bases and garrisons, should offer some of its services and capabilities to reach this goal. Of course, in order to organize this 20-million-strong force, we need assistance from the system. Our dear mobilization forces are either students at schools or universities or employees within various establishments; the rest are all somehow connected to the executive system. With their aid from whatever position they hold and through their communication channels, we can become better organized.

Overall, however, the program which we have in mind is to mobilize a 20-million-strong force in three axes: The first axis is the mobilization of popular forces as a precautionary move so that battle units can be speedily formed, following any threats from the enemy. This is a common experience in progressive countries where they have an advanced military system. These countries try to cut down on the normal forces, and carry on with their daily jobs, but are they able to form a force at the slightest threat. This is the first mission of the 20-million-strong force. The second mission is urban resistance; we witnessed this throughout the imposed war, and recently in the Mersad operation.

When under enemy attack, a town should defend itself and must fully use the individuals' abilities and the sources of strength. God willing, this will be realized. Therefore, the second axis of the 20-million force is urban defense and resistance. The third mission is civilian defense, which is to be formed in order to provide assistance for the people against calamities such as flooding, earthquakes, and the bombing of towns. Here again, the popular forces should be mobilized in order to provide assistance at short notice. We have already embarked on this, within the framework of forming a relief battalion, and we hope to expand this. [passage omitted]

Urban Defense Emphasized During Mobilization Week
LD2911132488 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 29 Nov 88

[Text] The fourth day of Mobilization Week, declared as mobilization of the oppressed and security day, was

marked today with urban defense and security operations in the form of patrolling, and halting and inspecting people on public thoroughfares and sensitive city areas. Some 600,000 mobilization forces throughout the country participated.

In Tehran, at three resistance bases in the Shemiranat area—the third roundabout at Tehran Pars, (Meghdad) base at Jomhuri Square, and Malek Ashtar base at Khorasan Square—the Mobilization forces carried out operations in chemical warfare defense, capturing high ground, and seizing the inner city center.

A correspondent of the Central News Unit reports that at Khorasan Square, a building seizure operation was carried out by some 25,000 Mobilization forces in the presence of various sections of the populace.

Further on Naval Maneuvers Held in Northern Gulf

3d Stage Begins

LD2911125188 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 29 Nov 88

[Text] The third stage of the great naval operation "Jowshan-1" began this morning in the 2d Maritime Zone in the northern waters of the Persian Gulf. The operation involves the surface vessels of the Iranian Navy, consisting of missile craft, destroyers, light and heavy gunboats, logistical craft, helicopter units of the Navy's (?counterstrike) force, special operations units, frogmen, hovercraft, rangers, and marines.

In this stage of the exercises, the 2d Maritime Zone naval helicopters carried out minesweeping operations and continued tactical firing against hypothetical enemy targets with complete success.

Minesweeping Exercises

LD2911182088 Tehran IRNA in English 1803 GMT 29 Nov 88

[Text] Bushehr, Nov. 29, IRNA—Swift flying helicopters displayed their mine-sweeping prowess today during a three-hour stint on the second day of operation Jowshan-1, detecting and defusing their targets.

The exercise designed to test the combat efficiency of the 2nd Maritime Units started at 12:00 hours local time Monday at the headwaters of the Persian Gulf.

Tuesday saw in action naval choppers spotting mines and swooping down on pre-planned targets off the Khark Island.

Rear Admiral Shafiqi, commander of the 2nd Maritime Zone, said the country's over thousand kilometre long southern coastline warrants a powerful navy, whose alertness counts for the regional security. Iran is planning to enlarge its Navy, he added.

Named after frigate "Jowshan" which sank the first Iraqi destroyer during the initial days of the imposed war, the exercise yesterday saw frogmen setting of depth-charges and vessels staging troop landing, mock combats and torpedoing of pre-determined targets.

Commentary Views OPEC Meeting in Geneva

LD2111043088 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1629 GMT 20 Nov 88

[Station commentary]

[Excerpts] The 13 OPEC oil ministers meet again in Vienna tomorrow at that organization's 84th session, amid the current atmosphere of instability in the oil market. Since the 83d OPEC session, held in May-June 1988, the oil market has seen some big fluctuations. These fluctuations, which led to the falling trend of the oil prices, were mainly the result of overproduction and of supply overtaking demand in the international oil market. [passage omitted]

OPEC's inability in the face of new problems in the oil market stems from a difference of opinion among its members on ways of adopting a long-term pricing and production strategy. One group, including the Islamic Republic of Iran [IRI], believes that the strategy of defending the price should be chosen. This strategy says that the prices should remain high through production control, and higher prices combined with lower production is better than producing too much at a lower price. On the other hand, some OPEC countries—mainly the members of the Gulf Cooperation Council—believe in a strategy of raising production. If we admit that the industrial countries have always sought cheap and easily obtainable oil, then we come to the conclusion that the strategy of overproduction corresponds with that of the industrial countries.

At any rate, thanks to the developments of the past 15 years in the oil market and global oil industry, and thanks to the disagreement among the OPEC members, this organization is now under intense pressure. Under present circumstances, it is the consumer which determines the oil prices and even quotas of each OPEC member. Unfortunately, this constitutes a problem for Third World countries in relation to the market situation for most of their exported raw materials.

By understanding OPEC's basic problem one can properly see the solution. At present OPEC possesses 75.9 percent of the world's proven oil reserves. This is equal to a figure of about 676 billion barrels. Unity among the oil producers, which possess such huge reserves, mixed with greater understanding and the adoption of a single long-term strategy can control and take charge of all developments of the oil market.

During the past few months overproduction by some OPEC members has led to a considerable drop in oil prices. Latest reports from the market indicate that price

for Dubayy crude oil has fallen below $10 per barrel, that is, $8 less than the official price. At the same time, OPEC production has increased to 23 million barrels per day in the past 2 weeks, which is 5 million barrels more than the limit set by OPEC.

The oil market developments of the past few months are mainly the result of the policy pursued by the GCC members. Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, in pursuit of their political and regional objectives, within the framework of the thesis for obtaining a fair quota in the oil market, have resorted to overproduction, which has led to a drop in the price of oil.

At present the 84th session of the OPEC is facing such problems as overproduction by some members, ways of making the Iraqi regime observe the OPEC quota system, and fixing a production ceiling for the organization and setting official prices for the year 1989. Iraq, which has ignored the OPEC quota system for nearly 2 years, has demanded a quota equal to Iran as a precondition for returning to the system. Iran, rejecting that demand, offered a new proposal at last month's session in Spain to set up pricing committees and to decide a long-term strategy for OPEC. On the basis of this proposal Iran agrees to have the same export quota as Iraq [as heard], whereas the Iraqi regime has opposed Iran's new proposal.

At any rate, in view of the falling oil prices parallel with the drop in the value of the dollar, the real income of the OPEC members has fallen drastically. Lower purchasing power of the OPEC members could have unpleasant consequences for most OPEC members. In view of the oil market situation, the 84th OPEC session is very similar to that organization s 79th session in 1986. The OPEC agreement at the 79th session solved the oil crisis in 1986, and after that the prices rose to $18 per barrel.

Opium, Hashish Seized From Smugglers

LD3011094088 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0730 GMT 30 Nov 88

[Text] According to a report of the Central News Unit, thanks to the efforts of Gendarmerie officers in the Sistan va Baluchestan, Hormozgan, Kerman and Khorasan regions, 265 kg of opium, 20 kg of hashish, 1,833 pairs of Chinese trousers, 75,000 packets of Winston brand cigarettes, 15,530 square meters of various foreign-made cloth, and more than 7,000 watches were seized from a number of smugglers. On the basis of this report, the arrested smugglers were handed over to the relevant judicial authorities together with the seized goods.

Deputy Comments on 'Blackballing' in Majles

NC2811201888 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 23 Nov 88 p 2

[Editorial: "Blackballing"]

[Text] The esteemed deputy from Nur said in his preagenda speech: "Why is it that those who cannot carry out their responsibilities do not relinquish their seats? Why do they have to stick to their desks? If they do not have the ability, they should step aside."

We mentioned yesterday that generalizations do not resolve problems and that bullying cannot be a substitute for strong moral reasoning. The Majles deputy should not have spoken as if he were speaking at a private gathering or in a mosque. The people will ask: Were you not the ones who voted for these ministers? The ink on your votes has not yet dried. There is no doubt that all the Majles deputies did not vote for all the ministers, but there is a way of doing things. An improper way is to create an atmosphere so stifling and to tighten the dragnet around an individual in such a manner that he steps aside marely to safeguard his own reputation. The other way is to question a deputy or deputies of the Majles in an atmosphere of confidence and reasoning. We should replace such maligning with a legal modus operandi. Creating an atmosphere and raising slogans only serve to contaminate the work environment.

Maldives

'Tamil Sources' on Reasons for Invading Island

BK3011041288 Hong Kong AFP in English 0342 GMT 30 Nov 88

[By M.R. Narayan Swamy]

[Text] New Delhi, Nov 30 (AFP)—Sri Lankan Tamil guerrillas invaded the Maldives because they needed a secure base abroad and thought a takeover of the Indian Ocean island nation would be easy, Tamil sources said here. But the pre-dawn attack on November 3 aimed at toppling President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom failed for at least four reasons, primarily because the raiders had not anticipated Indian military intervention, the sources said.

Maldives authorities blamed the People's Liberation Organisation of Tamil Eelam (PLOTE), one of six major Sri Lankan Tamil rebel groups, for the raid on the capital island of Male in which 19 people, 12 of them Maldivians, died. PLOTE initially denied involvement, but PLOTE sources in Colombo later admitted that most of the heavily-armed Tamil youths involved in the coup bid belonged to the once staunchly left-wing group. Military planning for the coup was thorough, the sources here said Tuesday. Ten PLOTE members were flown to Male several days in advance, "made to mix with the population and directed to wait (for the raid)," they said. The main group sailed from Sri Lanka's west coast a day or two before the attack.

Initial reports from the Maldives said 150 to 250 Tamil mercenaries stormed Male, but the sources said only 62 PLOTE militants were trained for the coup. The takeover bid ended after nightfall the same day when India landed 1,600 elite commandos in Male. Indian naval ships chased and captured the gunmen, who had fled with hostages, after several hours of drama on the high seas. Ironically, some of

the attackers were reported to have been trained in India during the war in Sri Lanka for a Tamil state called Eelam. New Delhi, which signed an accord with Colombo in July 1987 aimed at ending the bloody Tamil separatist campaign, has denied training militants.

The Tamil sources told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE that planning for the coup had gone on for six months in Sri Lanka, where the PLOTE has taken an increasingly anti-India stand since accepting the Indo-Sri Lankan peace accord. Indian intelligence gave no sign of having detected the PLOTE preparations, despite the presence of some 50,000 Indian troops in Sri Lanka's Tamil-populated Northern and Eastern Provinces under the pact. A PLOTE spokesman based in India's southern Madras city said the coup attempt was aimed at establishing "a democratic set-up" in the Maldives, where Mr. Gayoom has been in power since 1978. "We had been told that there was a lot of discontent and that we would get local support once we got there," he said. "However that did not happen."

The Tamil sources said the real reason for the raid was to set up a PLOTE base away from Indian troops and rival groups. "The PLOTE was increasingly feeling the Indian pressure and wanted a secure base," said the sources, known to be close to the PLOTE leadership. "With both Indian soldiers and rival groups attacking the PLOTE in Sri Lanka, they wanted a place from where they could function freely. They thought Maldives fitted all their requirements," they added. "They thought it would be easy to take over the Maldives," they said. The Maldives, made up of 1,196 coral islands spread some 750 kilometres (450 miles) across the Indian Ocean with a population of 200,000, has no army or navy and its all-purpose National Security Service (NSS) is only 1,400-strong.

The unexpectedly fierce resistance of the inexperienced NSS was the third factor in the failure of the coup bid, in addition to the Indian intervention and the lack of local support, the sources said. The NSS kept fighting the PLOTE guerrillas until the radio announcement of the Indian intervention forced them out of Male.

The fourth reason for the debacle, the sources said, was that the group was inexplicably unaware that Mr Gayoom had cancelled a three-day visit to India that week which would have kept him in New Delhi at the time of the raid. Mr Gayoom called for Indian military assistance by telephone from a hideout in Male while the coup attempt was in progress. The PLOTE spokesman said his group was "in bad shape" in Sri Lanka's Tamil areas, hounded by rival Tamils allegedly with Indian backing. Indian troops have frequently clashed with PLOTE cadres in recent months, accusing the group of secretly teaming up with the largest Tamil group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, which has rejected the peace accord.

The PLOTE spokesman confirmed reports that the raiders in Male were led by a guerrilla known by his nom de guerre Vasanthi who died fighting the NSS. News reports have said the operation was financed by Maldivian businessman Abdullah Lutufi, who accompanied the raiders and is now in Maldives custody. Mr. Lutufi was quoted by the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) on November 10 as saying that PLOTE leader Uma Maheshwaran had wanted to "seize" the Indian Ocean archipelago because of its "rich investment possibilities." The sources here did not explain the PLOTE connection with Mr. Lutufi.

'Hundreds' of Sri Lankan Workers Asked To Leave

BK2811065288 Hong Kong AFP in English
0625 GMT 28 Nov 88

[Text] Colombo, Nov 28 (AFP)—Hundreds of Sri Lankan workers in the Maldives have been asked to leave after a bloody coup attempt involving Sri Lankan Tamil mercenaries, officials in the capital island Male said Monday [28 November]. Work permits were cancelled and the Maldives authorities refused to extend visas of Sri Lankan expatriates, forcing them to leave the Indian Ocean atoll nation, officials contacted by telephone said. "We don't know how many have already left. We are awaiting a report from the Maldivian Foreign Office," a Sri Lankan official told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE.

The Maldivian High Commission (embassy) here has previously put the total Sri Lankan labour force in the Maldives at 4,000. Most of them are teachers, doctors, accountants, garment workers and skilled labourers. The Sri Lankan official said skilled and non-skilled labourers at two Japanese construction firms involved in development projects in Male, Mitsui and Taisei Corporation, had already left. "Many left either because their work permits were withdrawn or their visas expired. Some left because they didn't like the way things were going for them (from the Male authorities)," the official said.

A ban on Sri Lankans entering the equatorial islands is currently in force. Maldivian High Commission spokesman Ahmed Sareer confirmed that many Sri Lankans would have had to leave Male but said the move was "temporary." The Sri Lankan Foreign Ministry in a statement published Monday said high level contacts have been concluded between the countries to ensure the coup attempt will not affect their bilateral relations. At least 12 Maldivians died when 150 to 250 Sri Lankan Tamil mercenaries led by two Maldivian businessmen stormed the one-mile (1.6 kilometer) long capital island November 3 in a bid to oust President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom.

President Gayoom Interviewed on Invasion

JN2711173288 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic
25 Nov 88 p 9

[Interview with President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom in Male by Muhammad Zaki Husayn—date not given]

[Excerpt] AL-ITTIHAD: Do you believe there were long-term foreign plans behind this conspiracy, and were there supporters for them inside your country?

Gayoom: No doubt, there were foreign plans behind the operation. All of the participants were Tamils and foreigners. Only two treasonous Maldivians were with them. All of the mercenaries belong to a terrorist organization in Sri Lanka which is also fighting the government there. We have no evidence that any other foreign side participated in the operation.

AL-ITTIHAD: Your people are known for their peace-loving nature, your homeland has for years been a friend of every country in this troubled world, and there are no regional problems between your people and their neighbors. What were the objectives of the recent bloody conspiracy, and why did it take place at this particular time?

Gayoom: Our investigation will reveal these matters, God willing. The mercenary aggressors were arrested, God be praised, and are being investigated. Investigation will unveil their intentions. We can say the mercenaries harbored certain ambitions because the conspiracy was aimed at the country's independence, the Maldivian people, the constitutional government in the Maldives, and the Islamic doctrine. Therefore, we can conclude there were ambitions, but we do not know the details. As I said, our investigation is continuing and will unravel the mysteries of this operation. It seems the mercenaries took into consideration my planned 3-day visit to India on the 2d day of the month to meet with Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. They might have known about this visit, and the operation coincided with my planned absence from the country. However, I postponed the visit at the last moment, God be praised.

AL-ITTIHAD: How did you manage to quickly restore security, order, and normal life to the capital in record time, and what was the extent of the human and material losses?

Gayoom: First, I would like to stress that our forces defeated the armed mercenaries. The real fighting raged for 18 hours from 0400 to 2200 on the same day. After making sure that they would not be able to control the security forces center and that they would not succeed in penetrating our defense barriers, the mercenary forces decided to withdraw, and some of them fled by sea. We feared that during their withdrawal, the mercenaries would kill the hostages—500 unarmed Maldivians who were seized by the invaders as a result of their failure, anger, and frustration. Therefore, I asked India to send military forces to prevent the mercenaries from taking any revenge against the Maldivian people. India responded quickly. As I said, we managed to defeat the mercenaries at the beginning, but the quick arrival of the Indian forces completely terrified the mercenaries and forced them to flee by sea. India's cooperation with us restored life to normal within 24 hours and also restored the political, consitutional, and military situation to normal.

AL-ITTIHAD: How many mercenaries were there?

Gayoom: We do not know exactly, but I believe there were approximately 100 or 120. They came on two Sri Lankan fishing boats. As you know, our country is open to all ships and we have large and deep seas. Moreover, any ship can enter our waters in darkness. I believe they used small ships to reach the shore. [passage omitted]

Nepal

'High-Level' PRC Delegation Ends Border Talks

BK2511014288 Hong Kong AFP in English 1510 GMT 24 Nov 88

[Text] Kathmandu, Nov 24 (AFP)—A high-level Chinese delegation left here Thursday after border talks, with Vice Minister for National Security Gu Linfang saying that the two sides wanted to maintain regular contacts on the issue. Mr. Gu's delegation had talks during its one-week stay here with a Nepalese delegation headed by Secretary for Home Affairs Bhakta Bahader Koirala aimed at reaching agreement on regularising the 1,414 kilometer (884 miles) Nepalese-Tibetan border.

Mr. Gu told reporters before leaving Kathmandu for home via Hong Kong that there were no specific border problems but that "the security on the two sides of the common border is of concern to both Nepal and China."

"We discussed border security issues," Mr. Gu added, "for this we want to make regular contacts in future to keep the border in good order." [passage indistinct]

Foreign Minister Interviewed on Tibetan Exiles

BK2811075088 Hong Kong AFP in English 0718 GMT 28 Nov 88

[By Kedar Man Singh]

[Text] Kathmandu, Nov 28 (AFP)—The Government of Nepal will not allow Tibetans to use Nepalese soil for hostile action against the Chinese in the event of further disturbances in neighbouring Tibet, Foreign Minister Shailendra Kumar Upadhyaya said this week. "We have good relations with our neighbours (China to the north and India to the south), we don't want our soil to be used against any neighbours for a hostile purpose," Mr. Upadhyaya said in an interview with AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE here. The exiled spiritual and temporal leader of the Tibetan people, the Dalai Lama, recently proposed talks with China on the basis that Beijing control Tibet's defence and foreign policy, leaving all other affairs in the hands of an autonomous government.

The proposal has received a mixed response from exiled Tibetans, some 10,000 of whom live in Nepal and tens of thousands more in India, with some exiles arguing that with anti-Chinese unrest in Lhasa the fight for complete independence should be stepped up. Asked to comment on the repatriation of some 26 Tibetans and Chinese last September, the foreign minister said that the group had not possessed valid passports and had entered Nepal to obtain forged Nepalese passports in order to travel to the United States. According to official sources the 26, the

identities of whom have not been revealed, were arrested by border guards in 1987 shortly after an uprising in the Tibetan capital of Lhasa. They were taken to Kathmandu before being handed over to Chinese border authorities at Korri Pass on the advice of the Chinese Embassy.

Mr. Upadhyaya described the question of human rights in regard to Tibetans in general and the 26 as a "tricky one."

"Nepal is not indifferent to human rights, but the thing is we must now make regulations so that people normally can enter (across the border) according to the law," he said. "There is a regulation that any Chinese (including Tibetans) entering Nepal must have a valid passport and a visa from the Nepalese Government except for those in the 20 kilometer zone," he added. Asked if in future the Nepalese Government would consider illegal Tibetan border-crossers on a case by case basis, he replied that if such a problem were encountered the government would have to take into consideration the interests of the Nepalese people as a whole.

Mr. Upadhyaya also said Nepalese officials recently held talks in Kathmandu with Gu Lingfang, Chinese vice minister for internal security, on regulation of the 1,414 kilometer (885-mile) long mountainous frontier. "The Chinese and the Nepalese may be discussing how to control border traffic and regularization of border traffic," he said. Under a 1978 border treaty with China, both residents of Tibet, which Nepal recognizes as an autonomous region of China, and Nepal living within a 20-kilometer (12 mile) radius of the frontier can cross freely for the purposes of trade and grazing herds. "All other Tibetans wanting to enter Nepal should have passports and entry visas," he stressed. "We cannot promote such things (border crossing) on a large scale, that may create problems for us and for our neighbours."

Thousands of Tibetans fled their homes and followed the Dalai Lama into exile in India, Nepal and Bhutan after a 1959 uprising against the Chinese. Some 10,000 of them stayed on in Nepal where they still live as refugees. Mr. Upadhyaya recalled that in 1974 a force of some 15,000 anti-Chinese Tibetans had staged raids into China from the wild Nepalese frontier area of Mustang, some 217 miles (350 kilometers) from Kathmandu. The small Nepalese Army had to intervene to disarm them. Some of their leaders were killed and others fled south to India where the Dalai Lama has his headquarters, he said. "In the past there were thousands of them (armed Tibetans). It took us years to persuade them to settle down peacefully, to surrender arms. We told them... if you don't want refugee status, if you want to carry arms against the rule of a country, then this type of situation Nepal cannot tolerate," he said.

Mr. Upadhyaya declined comment on the Dalai Lama's recent moves to open talks with the Chinese on the future of Tibet, saying that it was an internal matter. China is among 99 countries which has recognized Nepalese King Birendra's call in 1975 to regard Nepal as a zone of peace (ZOP) under which no foreign military base can be set up in the Kingdom and Nepalese are barred from forming political movements with policies aimed at ZOP supporters. [sentence as received] Neither India, with which Nepal carries out half of its trade, or the Soviet Union have recognized the ZOP. The foreign minister said he would be visiting Beijing on December 5 for what he described as "routine" 10-yearly consultations on the demarcation of the common border, parts of which have to be regularly redelineated because of the frequency with which markers are wiped out by massive landslides.

On Ties With China, India, West

BK2811094688 Hong Kong AFP in English 0913 GMT 28 Nov 88

[Report on interview with Foreign Minister Shailendra Kumar Upadhyaya by Kedar Man Singh in Kathmandu—date not given]

[Text] Kathmandu, Nov 28 (AFP)—Nepal has welcomed Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's upcoming trip to China, the first by an Indian leader in 34 years, saying a dialogue between the two Asian giants could bring peace and security to the area. "We have nothing to be afraid of in their meeting. We have reason to be pleased because if there is some kind of harmony between the two countries it will be good for the peace and security of this part of Asia," Foreign Minister Shailendra Kumar Upadhyaya said. Speaking to AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE in an interview here, Mr. Upadhyaya said that this tiny Himalayan Kingdom of 18 million people sandwiched between China to the north and India to the south, maintained good relations with both countries. "We are very peaceful neighbours," he said, adding that border problems were minor and that more than 50 percent of Kathmandu's external trade was conducted with India.

Last year Nepal voiced the fears of India's smaller neighbours when it protested Indian troops dropping food and medical supplies to Tamil separatists in Sri Lanka, calling the move "interference" in the sovereign affairs of another nation. However, it has since applauded the sending of Indian troops to Sri Lanka to implement a peace accord and earlier this month to the Maldives to quell a mercenary coup attempt. "It is the option of a sovereign country (to enter into a peace agreement and invite troops), so who are we to tell a sovereign country how to conduct its affairs," he said, referring to Maldivian President Gayoom's appeal for Indian troops, and the Sri Lanka pact.

The foreign minister also welcomed a proposed summit between Moscow and Beijing, slated for early next year, saying that only meetings between superpowers could help reduce tensions in the region such as those created by the situations in Afghanistan and Cambodia. He

described Nepal's relationship with Moscow as "on the whole satisfactory" but added that there was a need for the Nepalese leadership to get acquainted with the new Soviet leadership and discuss ways improving ties, especially in development cooperation. Neither Moscow nor Delhi has recognized Nepalese King Birendra's 1975 declaration that Nepal was a zone of peace (ZOP), disallowing the establishment of foreign military bases on its soil and the formation of any Nepalese political grouping hostile to those that recognized the ZOP.

Mr. Upadhyaya said he did not think the upcoming Sino-Indian meeting would influence New Delhi on its non-recognition of the ZOP, saying that "India didn't need anyone's advice" on the matter. On relations with the United States and Great Britain, which like China recognize the ZOP, the foreign minister said he was also looking forward to more development assistance from Washington, especially in the fields of crop improvement and health. He also said London had as yet to make a concrete proposal on the future of some 5,000 Gurkha troops now stationed in Hong Kong when the former colony will be turned over to China in 1997. Gurkhas serving in the British Army provide about one quarter of Nepal's foreign exchange.

Pakistan

Foreign Office Regrets U.S. Decision on 'Arafat

BK2911155288 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 29 Nov 88

[Text] Pakistan has expressed regret over the U.S. decision not to grant a visa to PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat to address the UN General Assembly session. A statement issued from the Foreign Office in Islamabad today expresses the hope that the decision will be reviewed so a constructive and useful debate can take place on the Middle East. Any rigidity in this regard will further complicate the situation.

The statement adds that the U.S. refusal has created an unprecedented situation. The PLO enjoys observer status in the United Nations, which has been recognized by the entire world, and the PLO's mission is working at that world body under an agreement between the United Nations and the United States. Therefore, under this agreement, PLO Chairman 'Arafat reserves not only the moral but also the legal right to address the UNGA.

Bhutto Briefed on Foreign Policy Issues

BK3011021288 Hong Kong AFP in English 1806 GMT 29 Nov 88

[Text] Islamabad, Nov 29 (AFP)—Benazir Bhutto, whose party won the largest number of seats in elections this month, was briefed on Pakistani foreign policy Tuesday by Foreign Secretary Humayun Khan, it was officially reported.

The government also began beefing up security around Ms Bhutto's private residence two days before Pakistani President Ghulam Ishaq Khan is to nominate a new premier, the official ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN (APP) said.

The reports have strengthened speculation that Ms Bhutto, whose Pakistan People's Party (PPP) won 94 seats in parliamentary elections on November 16 but failed to win an outright majority, would be named Pakistan's new premier on Thursday.

Special police guards took up position around the residence of a friend of Ms Bhutto's, local dentist Zafar Niazi, where the PPP leader was staying.

Sources said that Mr Humayun may have also discussed matters related to Afghanistan with Ms Bhutto.

Foreign diplomats, including ambassadors from the United States, India, China and Turkey, the representative of the Palestine Liberation Organization and the chief of the World Bank mission here, have already called on Ms Bhutto.

Newly elected members of the National Assembly were meanwhile reaching Islamabad for their oath taking ceremony on Wednesday.

2 Parties Support Bhutto; 'Clear Majority' Seen

BK3011030688 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 30 Nov 88

[Text] In Pakistan, two parties—the Muhajir Qaumi Movement [MQM] and Baluchistan National Alliance—are reported to have decided to support the PPP [Pakistan People's Party] strengthening Miss Benazir's claim to form a government. Eight independents belonging to tribal areas have also pledged their support to PPP in the National Assembly. An accord is reported to have been reached between MQM and the PPP on Monday. The accord would bring 13 seats to the PPP to give it a clear majority. The MQM, whose candidates contested as independents, emerged as the third largest party in the elections.

In another setback to the Islamic Democratic Alliance, the Baluchistan National Alliance has decided to support the PPP both at the Center and in the province.

The newly elected national and provincial assemblies are meeting today to initiate the process of transfer of power after a gap of over 11 years. Miss Benazir Bhutto and other members will take oath today paving the way for the nomination of the prime minister by the acting president, Mr Ghulam Ishaq Khan, tomorrow.

Like the National Assembly, the provincial assemblies will also elect women members for the reserved seats today.

Miss Bhutto was briefed yesterday by the foreign secretary, Dr Humayun Khan. The government has also begun beefing up security around Miss Bhutto's private residence in Islamabad. The reports have strengthened speculation that Miss Bhutto would be named the new prime minister.

National Assembly Members Sworn In 30 Nov
BK3011052488 Islamabad Overseas Service in Urdu 0500 GMT 30 Nov 88

[Text] The newly elected members of the National Assembly took the oath of office today. Chief Election Commissioner Justice S.A. Nusrat administered the oath separately in Urdu and in English. The swearing-in ceremony was directly relayed from Parliament House over radio and television.

Our reporter says that with the swearing-in, the lower house of Parliament has been formally set up and has started functioning. Prior to the swearing-in ceremony, the chief election commissioner welcomed the members of the assembly, who represent the 10 crore people of the country, and congratulated them. He said with the recent elections the people have achieved their goal.

President Meets Baluchistan Alliance Chief
BK2711112488 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 27 Nov 88

[Text] The chief of the Baluchistan National Alliance, Nawab Mohammad Akbar Khan Bugti, held a meeting with President Ghulam Ishaq Khan at Aiwan-i Sadr [Presidency] in Islamabad today.

During the meeting, held at president's invitation, political situation obtaining in the country following the elections and matters relating to the formation of the new government were discussed. Today's meeting is part of a series of meetings called by the president with political leaders.

Later, addressing a news conference, Nawab Mohammad Akbar Khan Bugti said the president told him that he wanted to complete the last phase of transfer of power as smoothly and peacefully as he had fulfilled his promise of holding impartial and free elections in the country. He said the Baluchistan National Alliance would work for the cause of democracy and would support only the democratic forces so as to strengthen democratic institutions in the country.

Muslim Scholars To 'Resist' Bhutto Appointment
BK2911141888 Hong Kong AFP in English 1411 GMT 29 Nov 88

[Text] Multan, Pakistan, Nov 29 (AFP)—Muslim religious scholars said here Tuesday they would resist the appointment of Benazir Bhutto as the next prime minister of Pakistan saying the idea of a female ruler was "repugnant" to Islam.

At a meeting in this central Pakistan city Tuesday eight muftis (religious scholars), coming from different schools of Islamic thought, said that under Islamic tenets women were banned from becoming leaders of a Muslim country.

They added that they would resist if Ms. Bhutto, head of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP), was appointed premier on Thursday.

The muftis added that the idea of having a female ruling a Muslim country was "repugnant" to Islam. They said Pakistan was an ideological Islamic state and the nomination of a woman as chief executive negated the Islamic ideology.

They added that if Ms. Bhutto was appointed as premier they would not accept the decision and instead would wage "a struggle for the supremacy of Shari'a (Islamic law)." They did not elaborate nor say what form their resistance would take.

The muftis appealed to the PPP to nominate one of its male members as candidate for the premiership.

Many observers have said they expected President Gulam Ishaq Khan to name Ms. Bhutto as premier Thursday as her Pakistan People's Party (PPP) had won the most seats, 94, in National Assembly elections on November 16 but not an absolute majority.

Mr. Ishaq Khan, who is due to name Pakistan's new premier during a nationwide address Thursday, has said that the Constitution allows for a female leader in this predominantly Muslim nation of 100 million people.

Trade Delegation Departs on Visit to China
BK2811155288 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 28 Nov 88

[Text] A 48-member Pakistani trade delegation left Gilgit through Khunjerab Pass today on a 15-day visit to China. The delegation is taking with it textiles and dry fruits worth over 6 million rupees and will bring from China six hydroelectricity power generators worth 10 million rupees.

Sri Lanka

'Foreign Observers' To Monitor Elections
BK3011100688 Hong Kong AFP in English 0954 GMT 30 Nov 88

[Text] Colombo, Nov 30 (AFP) - President Junius Jayewardene Wednesday bowed to opposition pressure and agreed to allow foreign observers to monitor presidential elections next month, officials here said. The 82-year-old leader Wednesday asked Foreign Minister Shahul Hameed to seek assistance from the Commonwealth Parliamentary Union and the Commonwealth Secretariat in monitoring the December 19 vote, an official

spokesman said. The spokesman quoted Mr. Jayewardene as telling his Cabinet that he had received no response to a similar request he made to international organisations in September. Mr. Jayewardene did not name the bodies.

Last week, the president turned down an opposition demand to invite international election monitors, citing security considerations and a lack of time. "If such a committee decides to travel round the country to study polling booth areas, sufficient security personnel will not be available to protect them," Mr. Jayewardene told main opposition candidate Sirima Bandaranaike. Mrs. Bandaranaike of the Sri Lanka Freedom Party has called Mr. Jayewardene's reasons unacceptable and said over the weekend that it was still not too late for him to change his decision. Campaigning by Mrs. Bandaranaike, the ruling party nominee and a third candidate from a left-wing party has been hampered by threats from Sinhalese militants demanding a dissolution of Parliament before presidential polls.

'Goodwill' Discussions Held With Maldives

BK2811114588 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 28 Nov 88

[Text] The Sri Lankan Government and the Maldivian Government have had a series of discussions to ensure [that] goodwill and understanding of traditional ties would be maintained. A communique from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs says that Secretary to the Ministry W.T. Jayesinghe visited Male recently and had talks with his counterpart, Ibrahim Hussain Jaki. Mr Jaki arrived in Colombo a few days ago with messages from the Maldivian president and had discussions with the foreign minister, A.C.S. Hameed. Mr Jaki told Mr Hameed that the Maldivian Government had no intention of repatriating any of the Sri Lankans employed in the professional grade and the men who are employed in any grade. However, as a temporary measure the government might have to suspend the work permits of some non-professional [word indistinct] Sri Lankan workers there.

Mr Hameed said that the Sri Lankan Government would extend its fullest cooperation if any investigations into the recent terrorist attack had to be made by the Sri Lankan authorities. [sentence as heard]

Communique Reveals 'Terrorist' Plans for Unrest

BK3011113888 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 30 Nov 88

[Text] A plan of action to be launched by terrorists over the next 3-weeks has come to light. A government communique says that captured terrorists revealed the plan. The communique says that the terrorists having failed in their attempt to launch a general strike, are now planning other ways and means to cover up the acts of murder and sabotage. The plan by the terrorist organizations aims at creating unrest in important work places and factories thereby forcing the security forces to take stern measures.

The plan aims at misleading innocent workers into striking with the intention of forcing the security personnel to fire at them. The government has warned the workers not to fall into these traps laid by terrorists. These terrorist organizations are also attempting to infiltrate or have already infiltrated human rights committees and citizens committees, Bikhu [monks] and Buddhist organizations and Christian organizations. The communique notes that by doing this they plan to launch protest campaigns against alleged killings and disappearances. To carry out this campaign, they have alerted their killer squad to assassinate a few people to accuse the government of these killings. The campaign by the terrorist organizations is solely intended to disrupt the forthcoming presidential election.

Bombs Explode, JVP Clash With Police in South

BK3011111988 Hong Kong AFP in English 1109 GMT 30 Nov 88

[Text] Colombo, Nov 30 (AFP)—Sinhalese militants exploded bombs and imposed curfews in southern Sri Lanka Wednesday in a bid to disrupt a ruling party presidential campaign meeting, police said. Two powerful bombs exploded at Ambalangoda Town, while a third was defused by troops, ahead of a meeting by United National Party (UNP) presidential nominee Ranasinghe Premadasa, police said. Police said no one was hurt in the blast because streets were deserted following a curfew declared by the Sinhalese Janatha Vimukti Peramuna (JVP, or People's Liberation Front) in the area, 85 kilometers (53 miles) from here.

In another development, JVP gunmen fought a gunbattle with a police patrol in southern Matara District Wednesday wounding five policemen and two homeguards, officials here said. The firefight in Kongala village was the first direct JVP clash with police since October 10 when militants attacked two police stations in the area leaving at least 10 people dead. The JVP, which draws much of its support from among the Sinhalese majority living in southern province, is demanding, among other things, the dissolution of Parliament before presidential balloting on December 19.

Mr. Premadasa, the UNP candidate who is also the prime minister, was due to address a campaign meeting

in southern Galle and Matara Districts, police said, adding that the JVP had imposed curfews in those regions also. A government statement Wednesday said-people in the two districts defied death threats and were going about their normal business. However, residents in Galle contacted by telephone said shops were closed and fewer people were on the streets. A few state-owned buses were seen operated by troops, they said. JVP gunmen stormed the house of a village official in Akuressa in Matara District late Tuesday, killing a relative and an eight-month-old baby, officials here said. They said the official escaped unhurt. The JVP is violently opposed to the government and has been accused of killing more than 500 ruling party supporters, security personnel and leftist rivals in the past 15 months.

'Terrorists' Attack Police Stations in North, East

BK2911115788 Colombo International Service in English 1945 GMT 29 Nov 88

[Text] Terrorist attacks on two police stations in the north and east have been repulsed. Police told LANKAPUVATH that the police station at central Camp (Amparo) had come under terrorist fire for 2 hours on Sunday night. The attack was repulsed. LTTE terrorists had fired at the police stations at Oddusudan in the Mullaitivu District in the north. There was minor damaged caused to the police station building but no police casualties were reported in both the attacks. A report from Jaffna states that the IPKF [Indian Peacekeeping Forces] found four bodies, of which one was of a woman, in the north of the Jaffna town.